

An Act Relative to the  
Architectural Access Board  
Senate Bill 1323

Hearing on Wednesday, October 14 at 11:00 a.m.  
Hearing Room A-2  
The State House  
Boston

Senate Bill 1323 would update the AAB's jurisdiction to align with the Americans with Disabilities Act. *Please join us in supporting this bill!*

- The Architectural Access Board (AAB) is the state body in charge of ensuring buildings are accessible. However, it can only enforce state law, and MA laws have fallen behind the federal Americans with Disabilities Act standards. SB 1323 fixes this problem.
- Under state law, new and renovated buildings used by businesses only need to be accessible in areas used by customers. Areas used only by employees do not need to be accessible, keeping people with disabilities out of the workforce. SB1323 would fix this.
- Unlike the federal law, state law does not require that apartment building owners add accessible units when they renovate their buildings. This is a major reason why it is so hard to find an affordable accessible apartment. SB 1323 would require accessible units be added.
- SB 1323 would remove outdated and hurtful language from the state code, replacing phrases such as "handicapped persons" with "persons with disabilities" etc.
- Employment and housing are two of the most vital needs for people with



## Awards Gala

Please plan to attend our Awards Gala and Fundraiser on Friday, November 13. Visit our [webpage](#) for the details!

## MWCIL



MetroWest Center  
for Independent  
Living

Website:  
[www.mwcil.org](http://www.mwcil.org)

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disabilities. Nationwide, our unemployment and homelessness rates are more than double those of the general population, in substantial part due to lack of physical access.

**CALL YOUR LEGISLATORS** and ask them to co-sponsor SB 1323  
**SPEAK AT THE HEARING** on October 14th at the State House in Room A-2  
**EMAIL** [Harold.Naughton@mahouse.gov](mailto:Harold.Naughton@mahouse.gov) and [James.Timilty@masenate.gov](mailto:James.Timilty@masenate.gov)

For more information, please contact Colin Killick at the Disability Policy Consortium; [ckillick@dpcma.org](mailto:ckillick@dpcma.org) or 617-542-3822

SB1323 is endorsed by disability advocacy organizations across the Commonwealth including the Disability Policy Consortium, National Multiple Sclerosis - New England Chapter, Easter Seals, the Disability Law Center, *MetroWest Center for Independent Living*, Boston Center for Independent Living and Independence Associates.

[Click here for the proposed regulations.](#)

[Click here for a Fact Sheet](#)

[Click Here for Talking Points](#)

Thank you,

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## How SB 1323 relates to Housing

The proposed regulations would require that when large buildings (like warehouses or old schools) undergo complete rehab to be used as housing—usually requiring the interiors to be completely built out, that along with the 5% of the units being fully accessible (which is already required), the remaining 95% would be built adaptable which is the current requirement for new construction.

As it stands right now, these old building rehabs are not required to build in any adaptability into the 95% of the units - like blocking in the bathroom walls or 32" wide door clearances. Of course this impacts folks with disabilities who might be able to use a unit that is not fully accessible but simply may need grab bars in a bathroom, and clearly impacts folks who rent an apartment when they are young and end up staying there for years only to find that their apartment can't handle something as simple as grab bars.

## Contact Your Legislators

If you're not sure who your State Senator and Representative are, or have lost their contact information, [Click Here at wheredoivotema.com](http://Click Here at wheredoivotema.com).

[www.mwcil.org](http://www.mwcil.org)  
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