

OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH  
PUBLIC ACT SUMMARY



**PA 23-140**—sHB 6479  
*Environment Committee*

**AN ACT CONCERNING CLIMATE RESILIENCY FUNDS AND PROJECTS**

**SUMMARY:** By law, a municipality may establish a Climate Change and Coastal Resiliency Reserve Fund to pay for property losses, capital projects, and studies related to climate change mitigation. The municipality’s budget-making authority may direct the municipal treasurer to invest the reserve funds in specified ways. This act also authorizes the municipal treasurer to invest the reserve fund in any trust fund the state treasurer administers, holds, or invests.

The act authorizes the state treasurer to (1) invest municipal Climate Change and Coastal Resiliency Reserve Funds and (2) adopt regulations to do so. It generally subjects the treasurer’s investments to the same oversight that the law applies to other treasurer-administered trust funds. And it requires these investments to follow the asset allocation outlined for treasurer-administered funds, instead of that for municipal investments, meaning that up to 60% of the investments may be in equities, rather than 40%.

Additionally, the act requires the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) commissioner to maximize the state’s receipt of federal funds designated for state climate change resiliency projects (e.g., coastal resiliency projects) by taking actions that at least include identifying these funds. Beginning by January 1, 2024, the act requires the commissioner to report biennially to the Environment Committee on her maximization efforts. The report must include federal funds identified, any application or request for funding that DEEP submitted, funds the state received, projects funded (in whole or in part), and recommendations for the state to maximize receiving federal funds.

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** Upon passage