Massachusetts Legislative Process 101

Citizens can contact their members of the State House and State Senate at many different points in the process, as marked with a ***.

1) Contact and meet with your representative or a committee chair about an issue of concern and ask for them to introduce a bill to their chamber.
2) Offer your opinion on bills that your member or another member has introduced, asking them to cosponsor and hold public hearings to move the bill forward.
3) Ask a committee member to act on a bill that has been sent to their committee for public hearing (call or write an email). Offer testimony at a live committee hearing on the bill.
4) When a bill makes it to the floor of the House or Senate, continue to communicate with your representative’s offices to offer background information and to compel them to vote.
5) If a bill goes to conference committee, continue to advocate for appropriate language and included actions.
6) When the bill comes out of conference committee, call your state senator and house member to ensure they know your opinion on that vote.
7) Contact the Governor’s office to offer background information and ensure the bill of concern is signed or vetoed.
8) If your bill gets stalled in committee or does not pass in the first year, ask your legislators to refile it in the next year.