

✖ It may be gauche to admit to worrying about this so soon after Ted Kennedy's death, but the conversations have already begun: How much harder will it be to get to 60 votes on healthcare reform and, more relevant here, climate change legislation without his seat filled? Massachusetts procedures for finding a new senator, and the status of efforts to change those procedures to allow Gov. Deval Patrick to make a temporary appointment quickly enough to participate in the fall legislative season, are covered well in [this Boston Globe piece](#). The paper makes its case for such a change [here](#), but notes that state legislators are wavering and will have to act quickly.