

The Commonwealth of Massachus::tts House of Representatives Late House, Boston 02133.1054

TODD M. SMOLA REPRESENTATIVE

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Representative Smola Appointed to Budget Bill Conference Committee

BOSTON – **Representative Todd M. Smola (R-Warren)** has been named as one of three House legislators appointed to the conference committee to negotiate differences between the House and Senate versions of the midyear budget bill. The conferees will negotiate the final version of a roughly \$350 million midyear spending proposal.

"This is a time sensitive matter and I am confident that the House and Senate will be able to work together," said Representative Smola. "We are committed to funding programs that are essential to the people of Massachusetts. I look forward to working on the conference committee to address these concerns."

The budget bill includes funding for snow and ice removal, the Department of Children and Families and homeless shelters. On the policy front, the branches are at odds over the Senate's tuition retention plan for the University of Massachusetts and House-backed changes to the state's gaming laws related to paying taxes on slot winnings.

"We are working hard to reach compromise on the differences. Our communities are waiting patiently for financial relief in the snow and ice category. A consensus on this bill will help to achieve that," said Representative Smola.

For additional information please contact Representative Smola at Todd.Smola@mahouse.gov or (617)722-2100.