



*The Commonwealth of Massachusetts*  
*House of Representatives*  
*State House, Boston 02133-1054*

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## **Representative Smola supports \$400M bond bill to rebuild Holyoke Soldiers' Home**

**BOSTON – Representative Todd M. Smola (R-Warren, Ranking Member, Committee on Ways & Means)** recently supported legislation to finance the reconstruction and modernization of the Holyoke Soldiers' Home.

House Bill 3701, which reflects an amended version of a bill that was originally filed by Governor Charlie Baker, was engrossed by the House of Representatives on a vote of 160-0 on April 15. The bill authorizes the state to borrow up to \$400 million for rebuilding the Soldiers' Home, which Governor Baker says is "necessary for the health, safety, and comfort of future generations of veterans and staff" at the facility.

Representative Smola said the bill authorizes the Division of Capital Asset Management and Maintenance (DCAMM) to begin the design and development phase for a new Soldiers' Home that will meet federal standards and guidelines for long term care and adult day health services. He noted that passage of the bill is needed in both legislative branches before the state can apply for up to \$260 million in federal matching funds through the federal Veterans Administration's State Veterans Home Construction Grant Program.

House Bill 3701 also includes language requiring the use of a Project Labor Agreement for the construction of the new Holyoke Soldiers' Home, which was not in the Governor's original bill. In addition to establishing a uniform grievance and arbitration procedure to resolve work-related disputes, the Project Labor Agreement prohibits workers on the project from going on strike.

Opened in 1952, the Holyoke Soldiers' Home is one of two state-run veterans' facilities in Massachusetts. In 2017, the Legislature approved a capital bond bill that included \$199 million in bond authorizations to rebuild the Chelsea Soldiers' Home, which was established in 1882.

House Bill 3701 now moves to the Senate for its consideration. For additional information please contact Representative Smola at [Todd.Smola@mahouse.gov](mailto:Todd.Smola@mahouse.gov) or (617)722-2100.

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