



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

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Representative Smola Supports Passage of \$42.7 Billion House Budget for Fiscal Year 2020

BOSTON – Representative Todd M. Smola (R-Warren, Ranking Member, Committee on Ways & Means), joined with his House colleagues last week to approve a \$42.7 billion state budget for Fiscal Year 2020.

Engrossed on a vote of 154-1 on April 25, the House spending plan includes significant funding increases for local aid to cities and towns, while foregoing any broad-based tax increases. It also calls for a \$264 million deposit into the rainy day account, which will provide the state with more than \$2.7 billion to mitigate future spending cuts in the event of an economic downturn.

The House budget provides a \$218 million increase in Chapter 70 education aid, bringing the statewide total to \$5.126 billion, while setting minimum per pupil aid at \$30. An additional \$1.1 billion has been allocated for unrestricted local aid to help support a wide range of municipal services, reflecting a \$29.6 million increase over current fiscal year spending.

Representative Smola noted that the House budget plan will provide: Brimfield with \$1,247,172 in Chapter 70 education aid and \$414,004 in unrestricted state aid; Holland with \$933,678 in Chapter 70 aid and \$214,328 in unrestricted state aid; Palmer with \$10,915,640 in Chapter 70 aid and \$2,129,586 in unrestricted state aid; Sturbridge with \$3,846,634 in Chapter 70 aid and \$822,696 in unrestricted state aid; Wales with \$994,373 in Chapter 70 aid and \$250,815 in unrestricted state aid; Ware with \$10,435,946 in Chapter 70 aid and \$1,833,298 in unrestricted state aid; Warren with \$960,737 in unrestricted state aid.

Other budget highlights include:

- \$16.5 million to assist school districts serving a high percentage of low-income students.
- \$328.8 million for the Special Education Circuit Breaker, a \$9.5 million increase over current spending.
- \$73.8 million for regional school transportation, a \$4.9 million increase over current levels that will provide for an 80 percent reimbursement rate.
- \$143.9 million for the Bureau of Substance Abuse Addiction Services, which includes funding increases for five new recovery centers. The budget also includes \$49.4 million for Substance Use Disorder Trust Fund, and provides EMS and ambulance companies with access to discounted prices on the overdose-reversing drug naloxone.
- \$500,000 increase for the Healthy Incentives Program, which provides funding assistance to help low-income residents purchase fresh produce from local farmers.
- \$17.9 million in funding for local Councils on Aging.

The budget now moves to the Senate, which is expected to release its own spending proposal on May 8. For additional information please contact Representative Smola at Todd.Smola@mahouse.gov or (617)722-2100.

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