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Legislators Finalize Agreement on Local Aid

BOSTON – Representative Todd M. Smola (R-Warren, Ranking Member, Committee on Ways & Means) is pleased to announce that the House and Senate Ways & Means committees have reached a local aid agreement for the Fiscal Year 2022 Budget. This agreement provides certainty and predictability for cities and towns, funds the first year of the Student Opportunity Act (SOA) and ensures that schools get back on schedule to fully implement the SOA by Fiscal Year 2027.

The local aid agreement includes the following parameters:-

- Funds Chapter 70 at its highest level ever at \$5.503 billion, an increase of \$219.6 million over FY 2021, which fully funds 1/6th implementation of SOA rates;
- Creates a \$40 million enrollment reserve fund targeted to stabilize school districts adversely impacted by pandemic-related enrollment changes; and
- Funds Unrestricted General Government Aid (UGGA) at \$1.16 billion, an increase of \$39.5 million over FY 2021, providing additional local aid support to our cities and towns.

Additionally, recognizing that many school districts across the state have experienced COVID-19 pandemic-related enrollment changes, we have agreed to create an enrollment reserve fund to help stabilize school districts experiencing higher levels of enrollment and to support district needs, including transportation, instruction and materials, in a flexible way as kids return to in person classroom learning.

As we move forward with our respective efforts to develop an FY 2022 budget, this agreement reflects our unwavering support for our students, our schools and our communities. We remain mindful that we have much to do as we work collaboratively with our colleagues and stakeholders in the coming weeks and months ahead.”

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

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