



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

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Representative Smola Appointed to Budget Conference Committee

BOSTON – Representative Todd M. Smola (R-Warren, Ranking Member, Committee on Ways & Means) has been selected as one of three House legislators appointed to the conference committee that will negotiate differences between the House and Senate versions of the state budget. Both the House and Senate recently passed budgets totaling roughly \$47.7 billion for fiscal year 2022. The conference committee will reconcile differences between the two proposals. Rep. Smola will be joined on the committee by Reps. Aaron Michlewitz of Boston and Ann-Margaret Ferrante of Gloucester in the House, and Sens. Michael Rodrigues of Westport, Cindy Friedman of Arlington and Patrick O'Connor of Weymouth in the Senate.

"The pandemic has been unbelievably challenging for everyone and the financial figures and priorities we've been listening to during the budget process this year, have reflected those challenges," said Representative Smola. "The budget is the number one priority for the legislature and every aspect of it is closely examined and deliberated. I look forward to working with my fellow conference committee members to produce a responsible budget for the commonwealth."

"As the Ranking Minority Member of the House Ways and Means Committee, Todd has always approached the state budget process with an eye towards promoting fiscal responsibility and protecting the interests of the state's taxpayers," said House Minority Leader Bradley H. Jones, Jr. (R-North Reading). "At the same time, he understands the Commonwealth is still facing many difficult challenges related to the COVID-19 pandemic. I am confident Todd's focus during budget negotiations will be on building consensus for a balanced spending plan that addresses many of the needs of the state's residents and small businesses and positions Massachusetts for a strong economic recovery."

Fiscal year 2022 begins on July 1st, which gives the conference committee less than a month to negotiate a compromise between the two versions of the budget. A final document will go to the

House and Senate for a vote before moving to Governor Baker's office for final approval. For additional information please contact Representative Smola at Todd.Smola@mahouse.gov or (617)722-2100.

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