

HOUSE No. 5112



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
STATE HOUSE · BOSTON, MA 02133
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MAURA T. HEALEY
GOVERNOR

KIMBERLEY DRISCOLL
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

November 20, 2024

To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives,

Pursuant to section 3 of Article XC of the Amendments of the Constitution, I am today signing House Bill No. 5100, An Act relative to strengthening Massachusetts’ economic leadership, and returning certain portions for your reconsideration. This legislation includes nearly all of the authorizations and transformative policy initiatives that I filed in March, bringing the total authorized to nearly \$4 billion, and takes important steps toward implementing our economic development plan. The bill is essential to keeping the Massachusetts economy strong and adaptable in a rapidly changing world.

I am proud that a centerpiece of this bill calls for continued investment in our globally renowned life sciences sector. This legislation fully reauthorizes the programs of the Massachusetts Life Sciences Center, expands the life sciences tax credit program, and repositions the Center to continue supporting Massachusetts life sciences companies, hospitals, and research institutions as they tackle the toughest challenges in health care innovation. This bill enables a new 10-year, nearly \$1 billion initiative to ensure that the Massachusetts life sciences ecosystem remains a global leader, while driving more collaboration and more equitable health care outcomes for Massachusetts residents.

This legislation positions Massachusetts to become a global leader in the climatetech sector. Massachusetts already leads the nation and the world in our policies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and to prepare for and mitigate the unprecedented risks of climate change. The state’s innovative economy is uniquely positioned to lead in developing the climate technologies that the world needs to respond to this existential threat. The bill I am signing today includes \$400 million in capital authorization and \$300 million in tax incentives for climatetech, modeled on the same types of investments that have successfully transformed our life sciences sector into

a global powerhouse. I am confident that these investments will help turn Massachusetts into a global hub for climate-based innovation and technology. This bill will also modify the existing tax credit for offshore wind development to ensure that the credit has the intended effect of spurring the production of zero-emission clean energy at scale. All together, the provisions of this bill will help us to establish the same global prominence in climatetech that we fostered for the life sciences, while helping Massachusetts companies find solutions to the global climate crisis.

The bill I am signing today also includes capital authorizations that will allow our quasi-public agencies to support other key emerging sectors such as artificial intelligence, robotics, and advanced manufacturing. These sectors already have a strong presence in Massachusetts, and these investments will equip Massachusetts to maintain and lengthen our lead relative to other states that are competing to grow these same sectors.

In addition to supporting key sectors, this bill enables us to continue to make critical investments in the people, communities and businesses that form the foundations of our economy. It reauthorizes the MassWorks Infrastructure Program to continue making investments in local infrastructure to unlock critical development projects in our communities, codifies a rural community program and reauthorizes the Rural Development Fund, and establishes a new tax credit to promote internships for young adults who attend our many colleges and universities so they are more likely to stay in Massachusetts after completing their studies. It includes a new tax credit for live theater productions to bolster our creative economy, as well as new reforms to the economic development incentive program (EDIP), both to make the EDIP tax credit a more effective tool to attract and retain jobs, and to give local municipalities more autonomy to provide local tax incentives to spur capital investment and job creation.

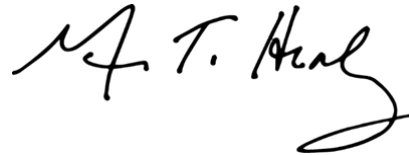
As always, economic equity was top of mind when I filed this bill, and I thank our partners in the Legislature for recognizing the importance of this priority. Promoting economic equity is a goal throughout all our economic development programs, and several equity initiatives in this bill are worthy of highlighting. A new pilot program within the Executive Office of Economic Development will provide technical and financial assistance on surety bonds to small businesses to increase the diversity of businesses bidding on and securing public construction contracts in the Commonwealth. The bill also updates the definition of “micro business” for purposes of the programs administered by the Massachusetts Office of Business Development (MOBD). The new, broader definition will allow MOBD to reach more kinds of businesses, and I have asked MOBD to place more emphasis on micro business support as we implement our economic development plan.

There are numerous other important policy updates in this bill, many of them added by the Legislature, and I’m appreciative of all the work that went into finding solutions on which we could all agree.

Pursuant to Article LVI, as amended by Article XC, Section 3 of the Amendments to the Constitution of the Commonwealth, we are returning sections 221, 222 and 223 with recommendations for amendment. My reasons for doing so are set forth in a letter dated today and included with this message as Attachment A. We are hopeful the House and Senate will work with us to address the proposals returned with amendment so that we can sign them in short order.

Taken all together, this bill gives us the opportunity, working together, to build and maintain an economy that is equitable, affordable and competitive. I thank House Speaker Mariano, Senate President Spilka, Chairs Michlewitz and Finegold and the members of the conference committee, and all of our partners in the Legislature for working past the normal deadline for calling formal sessions in order to get his important bill to my desk.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M. T. Healey". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping tail that extends to the right.

Maura T. Healey,
Governor

I return for amendment, pursuant to the authority vested in me by Article 56, as amended by Article 90, Section 3, of the Amendments to the Constitution, Sections 221, 222 and 223. The text of my recommended amendment is set forth in a letter of this date to the Senate and House of Representatives.

The remainder of this bill I approve.

Approved, November 20, 2024

at o'clock and minutes, .M.

Maura Healey
Governor

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ATTACHMENT A

November 20, 2024

To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives:

Pursuant to Article LVI, as amended by Article XC, Section 3 of the Amendments to the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, I am returning to you for amendment Sections 221, 222 and 223 of House Bill No. 5100, *An Act relative to strengthening Massachusetts' economic leadership*.

These sections update the state's minimum bodily injury insurance and property damage limits for motor vehicle liability insurance policies by increasing the limits from \$5,000 for property damage and \$20,000/\$40,000 for bodily injury to \$30,000 for property damage and \$25,000/\$50,000 for bodily injury. The current amounts have not been updated in over 30 years and the proposed increases would provide meaningful coverage for those who experience personal injury or property damage due to a motor vehicle accident.

I support these limit increases, but I also recognize that the language as currently drafted would become effective immediately upon my signature, providing insurance companies inadequate time for implementation. Insurers must update current policies and submit new forms and rates to the Commissioner of Insurance for review and approval before implementing these changes. Based on feedback from industry stakeholders, pushing out the effective date to July 1, 2025 will ensure that these changes take place in an orderly way.

For these reasons, I recommend that the bill be amended by striking out sections 221, 222 and 223 and inserting in place thereof the following 4 sections:-

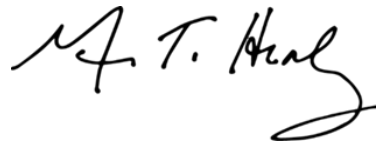
SECTION 221. Section 34A of chapter 90 of the General Laws, as so appearing, is hereby amended by striking out, in line 102, the words “at least twenty thousand dollars” and inserting in place thereof the following words:- not less than \$25,000.

SECTION 222. Said section 34A of said chapter 90, as so appearing, is hereby further amended by striking out, in lines 104 and 105, the words “at least forty thousand dollars” and inserting in place thereof the words:- not less than \$50,000.

SECTION 223. Section 34O of said chapter 90, as so appearing, is hereby amended by striking out, in line 17, the words “five thousand dollars” and inserting in place thereof the following figure:- \$30,000.

SECTION 223A. Sections 221 through 223, inclusive, shall apply to motor vehicle liability policies issued or renewed on or after July 1, 2025.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M. T. Healey". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping tail that loops back under the name.

Maura T. Healey,
Governor