

HOUSE No. 4005

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, April 7, 2025.

The committee on Ways and Means, to whom was referred the message from Her Excellency the Governor submitting requests for making appropriations for the fiscal year 2025 to provide for supplementing certain existing appropriations and for certain other activities and projects (House, No. 55) reports, in part, recommending that the accompanying bill (House, No. 4005) ought to pass [Total Appropriation: \$1,244,700,000.00].

For the committee,

AARON MICHLEWITZ.

HOUSE No. 4005

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the One Hundred and Ninety-Fourth General Court
(2025-2026)

An Act making appropriations for the fiscal year 2025 to provide for supplementing certain existing appropriations and for certain other activities and projects.

Whereas, The deferred operation of this act would tend to defeat its purposes, which are to make supplemental appropriations for fiscal year 2025 and to make certain changes in law, each of which is immediately necessary to carry out those appropriations or to accomplish other important public purposes, therefore it is hereby declared to be an emergency law, necessary for the immediate preservation of the public convenience.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1 SECTION 1. To provide for supplementing certain items in the general appropriations act
2 and other appropriation acts for fiscal year 2025, the sums set forth in section 2 are hereby
3 appropriated from the Education and Transportation Fund established in section 2BBBBBB of
4 chapter 29 of the General Laws and the Education and Transportation Innovation and Capital
5 Fund established in section 2DDDDDD of said chapter 29, unless specifically designated
6 otherwise in this act or in those appropriation acts, for the several purposes and subject to the
7 conditions specified in this section and subject to the laws regulating the disbursement of public
8 funds for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025. All appropriations in this section shall not be
9 subject to section 5D of chapter 29 of the General Laws. These sums shall be in addition to any
10 amounts previously appropriated and made available for the purposes of those items.

11 SECTION 2.

12 TRANSPORTATION

13 *Massachusetts Department of Transportation*

14 1596-2404 MBTA Physical Infrastructure.....\$60,000,000

15 1596-2405 MBTA Low-Income Fare Relief\$20,000,000

16 1596-2427 MBTA Workforce/Safety Reserve\$400,000,000

17 EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF EDUCATION

18 *Department of Elementary and Secondary Education*

19 1596-2422 Universal School Meals.....\$10,000,000

20 1596-2424 Green Schoolworks.....\$10,000,000

21 7061-0012 Special Education Circuit Breaker.....\$58,000,000

22 Student Opportunity Act Investment Fund.....100%

23 *Department of Higher Education*

24 1596-2425 DHE Endowment Match.....\$10,000,000

25 1596-2426 UMass Endowment Match.....\$10,000,000

26 SECTION 2A. The sums set forth in this section are hereby appropriated from the

27 Education and Transportation Fund established in section 2BBBBBB of chapter 29 of the

28 General Laws and the Education and Transportation Innovation and Capital Fund established in

section 2DDDDDD of said chapter 29 for the purposes and subject to the conditions specified in this section and subject to the laws regulating the disbursement of public funds for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025. All appropriations in this section shall not be subject to section 5D of chapter 29 of the General Laws. These sums shall be made available through the fiscal year ending June 30, 2028.

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF EDUCATION

Office of the Secretary

1596-2513 For a grant program for capital improvements, leasing of additional space and other initiatives necessary to build capacity and safely accommodate additional career technical education school slots; provided, that the funds shall be administered by the executive office of education, in consultation with the Massachusetts School Building Authority and the executive office of labor and workforce development; and provided further, that in determining a process for awarding grants, the executive office shall prioritize meeting the workforce demands of regional employers, reducing demonstrable waitlists at career and technical education schools and providing equitable access to career and technical skills training.....\$50,000,000

1596-2517 For local one-time education projects.....\$100,000

Department of Early Education and Care

1596-2511 For initiatives to support workforce, affordability and quality improvements in the early education and care sector; provided, that funds may be transferred at the direction of the secretary of administration and finance to the Early Education and Care Operational Grant Fund established in section 19 of chapter 15D of the General Laws; provided

50 further, that not less than \$20,000,000 shall be expended for a reimbursement rate increase for
51 subsidized early education center-based and family child care providers in the fiscal year ending
52 on June 30, 2026; provided further, that notwithstanding any general or special law to the
53 contrary, funds from said transfer may be expended from said fund for one-time improvements
54 that assist all families in connecting to child care providers and other initiatives to support
55 capacity building and workforce supports for early education and care
56 providers.....\$40,000,000

57 *Department of Elementary and Secondary Education*

58 1596-2514 For educational grants to reduce the waitlist for English for speakers of
59 other languages services; provided, that funds shall be administered by the department of
60 elementary and secondary education in coordination with the Workforce Skills Cabinet
61 established in Executive Order No. 560, dated February 26, 2015; provided further, that in
62 determining a process for awarding grants, the department shall prioritize programs focused on
63 training workers with the English language skills needed to fill in-demand jobs; and provided
64 further, that the commissioner of elementary and secondary education may transfer funds to item
65 7035-0002 and expend said funds subject to the conditions specified in said item in the general
66 appropriations act for the fiscal year ending on June 30, 2026.....\$8,500,000

67 1596-2515 For an early literacy high-dosage tutoring initiative program directed by
68 the commissioner of elementary and secondary education; provided, that said program shall
69 support Massachusetts public schools and districts to partner with providers approved by the
70 department of elementary and secondary education to address pandemic-related learning loss and
71 other identified underperformance to support accelerated literacy growth for students in

kindergarten through grade 3; provided further, that students characterized as below benchmark in grade 1 shall be prioritized; provided further, that funds may support activities, including, but not limited to: (i) providing early literacy tutoring services for students in kindergarten through grade 3 who have not met relevant benchmarks on department of elementary and secondary education-approved early literacy screening assessments; (ii) administering said screening assessments for participating students and collecting and sharing pre- and post-tutoring data; (iii) studying the impact of the provided tutoring; and (iv) providing in-person or virtual foundational skills-focused tutoring services per department of elementary and secondary education guidance; and provided further, that participating entities may include, but shall not be limited to: (a) public schools; and (b) districts serving a large proportion of high-needs students.....\$25,000,000

1596-2516 For a reserve to support reimbursements to school districts and direct payments to service providers for special education instructional and transportation costs pursuant to section 5A of chapter 71B of the General Laws and item 7061-0012; provided, that reimbursements shall be made in the fiscal year ending on June 30, 2026 for costs incurred in the fiscal year ending on June 30, 2025; provided further, that funds may be transferred to said item 7061-0012 and expended subject to the conditions specified in said item in the general appropriations act for the fiscal year ending on June 30, 2026; provided further, that not less than \$250,000 shall be expended for the office of the inspector general to review school district transportation service practices provided pursuant to said section 5A of said chapter 71B, including, but not limited to, procurement of said services, and to make recommendations for school districts that aim to reduce costs and ensure that districts maximize purchasing power and act transparently and efficiently to provide said services; provided further, that the office of the inspector general shall review possible ways for districts to consolidate transportation services

regionally, to the extent practicable; provided further, that not later than February 2, 2026, the office of the inspector general shall submit to the house and senate committees on ways and means and the joint committee on education and publish on its website recommendations and best practices: (i) for school districts to reduce costs and maximize purchasing power for transportation services; (ii) to consolidate transportation services regionally, to the extent practicable; and (iii) that the office deems necessary for said services; provided further, that the office of the inspector general shall include in its recommendations any information on cost savings for school districts by following said best practices and recommendations; and provided further, that the department of elementary and secondary education shall provide any information necessary for the office of the inspector general to conduct a comprehensive review under this item.....\$190,000,000

1596-2518 For a capital project, including development costs, administered by the department of elementary and secondary education for the Holocaust Legacy Foundation, Inc. to establish the Boston Holocaust Museum to provide interactive educational opportunities in the commonwealth, including, but not limited to, history and social science frameworks; provided, that funds may be used for: (i) exhibit buildout; (ii) accessibility; (iii) security infrastructure; (iv) educational technology; and (v) curriculum.....\$5,000,000

TRANSPORTATION

Massachusetts Department of Transportation

1595-2508 For an operating transfer to the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority to replenish the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority deficiency fund; provided, that the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority shall notify the Massachusetts

117 Department of Transportation, the executive office for administration and finance, the house and
118 senate committees on ways and means and the joint committee on transportation not less than 30
119 days prior to withdrawing funds from the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority
120 deficiency fund; and provided further, that not later than June 30, 2025, the Massachusetts Bay
121 Transportation Authority shall submit a written deficiency fund policy to the Massachusetts
122 Department of Transportation, the executive office for administration and finance, the joint
123 committee on transportation and the house and senate committees on ways and
124 means.....\$300,000,000

125 1596-2505 For an operating transfer to the Massachusetts Transportation Trust Fund
126 established in section 4 of chapter 6C of the General Laws for a program to support grants for
127 workforce and training initiatives at regional transit authorities and support transit improvements
128 across the commonwealth; provided, that the Massachusetts Department of Transportation shall
129 oversee the distribution of grants under this item; and provided further, that not later than March
130 2, 2026, the department shall submit a report to the joint committee on transportation and the
131 house and senate committees on ways and means that shall include, but not be limited to: (i) the
132 grant criteria used to determine awards; (ii) a list of grant recipients, including the amounts
133 received by each recipient; and (iii) a description of the specific uses by each
134 recipient\$25,000,000

135 1596-2506 For an operating transfer to the Massachusetts Transportation Trust Fund
136 established in section 4 of chapter 6C of the General Laws for a pilot program to provide grants
137 to municipalities for repair, maintenance and improvements to unpaved roads; provided, that the
138 Massachusetts Department of Transportation shall oversee the distribution of grants under this

139 item; provided further, that said grant funds shall only be available to municipalities for repair,
140 maintenance and improvements to dirt or gravel roads that are open to the public and maintained
141 by the municipality; provided further, that grant funds shall be used by municipalities for: (i)
142 reconstruction, surface grading, crown and shoulder restoration and removal of wash boarding
143 and potholes; (ii) guardrail and signage repair or replacement; (iii) drainage work, including
144 swales; and (iv) the purchase or lease of maintenance equipment, including, but not limited to,
145 graders, rollers and loaders; provided further, that municipalities shall not use grant funds for: (a)
146 construction of new roadways; (b) conversion of unpaved roads to paved roads; (c) landscaping
147 or removing vegetation not related to an eligible use project; (d) culverts; (e) retaining walls; or
148 (f) police details; and provided further, that not later than December 30, 2025, the Massachusetts
149 Department of Transportation shall submit a report on grant funds from this item to the house
150 and senate committees on ways and means and the joint committee on transportation that shall
151 include, but shall not be limited to: (A) the methodology used to distribute grant funds; (B) a list
152 of all municipalities that received grant funds; and (C) the amount of grant funds awarded to
153 each municipality.....\$10,000,000

154 1596-2507 For local one-time transportation projects.....\$100,000

155 1596-2509 For an operating transfer to the Massachusetts Bay Transportation
156 Authority under clause (1) of subsection (d) of section 2ZZZ of chapter 29 of the General Laws
157 for direct costs and lost revenues attributable to initiatives undertaken by the Massachusetts Bay
158 Transportation Authority to mitigate traffic impacts related to the closure of the Sumner Tunnel
159 during fiscal years 2024 and 2025; provided, that the Massachusetts Bay Transportation
160 Authority shall submit a report to the Massachusetts Department of Transportation, the joint
161 committee on transportation and the house and senate committees on ways and means detailing

the initiatives undertaken by the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority to mitigate traffic impacts related to the closure of the Sumner Tunnel for maintenance\$13,000,000

SECTION 3. Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, income surtax revenue, as defined in section 2BBBBBB of chapter 29 of the General Laws, collected in the fiscal year ending on June 30, 2024 but certified after July 20, 2024, shall be transferred to the Education and Transportation Innovation and Capital Fund established in section 2DDDDDD of said chapter 29 from the Student Opportunity Act Investment Fund established in section 35RRR of chapter 10 of the General Laws, not later than 30 days after the effective date of this act.

SECTION 4. Section 2F of chapter 140 of the acts of 2024 is hereby amended by striking out item 1596-2427 and inserting in place thereof the following item:-

1596-2427 For a transfer to the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority workforce and safety reserve established in line item 1599-1971 of section 2 of chapter 126 of the acts of 2022, for projects to address ongoing safety concerns at the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority related to the interim and final findings of the Federal Transit Administration's Safety Management Inspection initiated in April 2022; provided, that the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority shall work in consultation with the Massachusetts Department of Transportation and the department of public utilities in the planning and implementation of said projects funded through this item; provided further, that funds may be expended for hiring and retention related to said projects; provided further, that funds may be expended to support ongoing costs associated with said projects which shall include preventative maintenance, safety, service delivery and capital activities necessary to remain in compliance with said findings of said inspection; provided further, that the Massachusetts Department of

184 Transportation shall issue monthly reports to the joint committee on transportation and the house
185 and senate committees on ways and means detailing the status of the Massachusetts Bay
186 Transportation Authority's progress toward responding to each finding and required action as
187 issued by the Federal Transit Administration; and provided further, that said reports shall be
188 delineated by special directive and shall include, but shall not be limited to: (i) the funds
189 expended from this item and the related purpose for said spending; (ii) the completion date of
190 each executed required action; and (iii) the estimated completion date of each pending required
191 action.....\$36,000,000

192 Education and Transportation Fund 100%