HOUSE DOCKET, NO. 6270 FILED ON: 7/15/2026

HOUSE . . . . . No.

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
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MAURA T. HEALEY
GOVERNOR

KIMBERLEY DRISCOLL
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

July 15, 2026

To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives,

I am filing for your consideration a bill entitled "An Act Making Appropriations for Fiscal Year 2027 (FY27) to Provide for Supplementing Certain Existing Appropriations and for Certain Other Activities and Projects."

This supplemental budget would make an additional $100 million available in FY27 to augment municipal school budgets and provide immediate, one-time relief for all school districts across Massachusetts. I am filing this legislation now with the goal of making the funding available before the start of the new school year in order to continue to provide high-quality public education and to help avoid layoffs and program cuts, which can have negative impacts on student learning and mental health.

The FY27 budget that I recently signed made substantial investments in K-12 education and local aid, including full funding for the final-year implementation of the Student Opportunity Act and support for the continuation of free school meals. Together, our administration and the Legislature also increased the state's financial support of special education, school transportation reimbursement, rural school aid, charter school reimbursement, student mental health services and English language learner programming.

However, we also know that municipal budgets continue to be severely strained. This new funding - proposed to be taken from excess, unbudgeted Fair Share surtax revenue in FY27 – would provide a one-time bridge for cities and towns to mitigate harmful cuts in the new school year while they prepare for a more sustainable future moving forward. Since its inception, Fair Share has been a robust revenue source to support education and transportation across our budget, and I am confident that we will have sufficient resources to cover this relief package.

This bill proposes to distribute the $100 million in additional Fair Share funding by formula based on FY27 enrollment, ensuring that every one of Massachusetts' 319 operating school districts receives a portion of the additional funding. This amounts to approximately $112 per student on top of the $160 million in minimum per pupil aid included in the FY27 budget as part of the final-year phase-in of the Student Opportunity Act.

School districts can use this flexible one-time funding to meet local needs, which may include paying for teachers, paraprofessionals and mental health counselors, as well as evidence-based early literacy reading curriculum, instructional materials and implementation of our administration's recommended high school graduation requirements.

Given the cost pressures on our schools, I believe this funding is immediately necessary and will work in conjunction with FY27 budgeted aid and the reconvening of the Foundation Budget Review Commission to evaluate how best the state can best support public education.

I look forward to partnering with the Legislature to deliver this urgently needed additional school aid to districts promptly so that our partners in municipal government have time to plan and prepare how best to meet their needs.

Respectfully submitted,

Maura T. Healey,
Governor

HOUSE . . . . . No.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

An Act making appropriations for Fiscal Year 2027 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 forthwith to make supplemental appropriations for fiscal year 2027 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:

SECTION 1. To provide for certain unanticipated obligations of the commonwealth, to provide for an alteration of purpose for current appropriations and to meet certain requirements of law, the sum set forth in section 2 is hereby appropriated from the Education and Transportation Fund established in section 2BBBBBB of chapter 29 of the General Laws unless specifically designated otherwise in this act, for the several purposes and subject to the conditions specified in this act and subject to the laws regulating the disbursement of public funds for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2027. This sum shall be made available until June 30, 2027.

SECTION 2.

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF EDUCATION

Department of Elementary and Secondary Education

1596-2705 For one-time grants to support public schools and districts in the commonwealth in fiscal year 2027; provided further, that the department of elementary and secondary shall distribute funds from this item to each school district, based on the share of foundation enrollment, as defined by section 2 of chapter 70 of the General Laws, attributed to the school district, as defined by said section 2, and to each commonwealth charter school, based on the share of district foundation enrollment attributed to the charter school, as of October 1, 2025; provided further, that notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, assistance funded by this item shall only be available on a one-time, non-recurring basis; provided further, that no funds distributed from this item to a school district, shall be considered base aid in fiscal year 2028; and provided further, that notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, any funds distributed from this item to a school district shall be deposited in a separate account and shall be expended by the school committee of such school district without further action on the part of the local appropriating authority…….. $100,000,000