

**SENATE . . . . . No. 2575**

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**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

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**In the One Hundred and Ninety-Fourth General Court  
(2025-2026)**  
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SENATE, July 30, 2025

Report of the committee of conference on the disagreeing votes of the two branches with reference to the House amendment to the Senate Bill making appropriations for the fiscal year 2025 to provide for supplementing certain existing appropriations and for certain other activities and projects (Senate, No. 2540) (amended by the House by striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting in place thereof the text of House document numbered 4265),-- reports, in part, a “Bill making appropriations for the fiscal year 2025 to provide for supplementing certain existing appropriations and for certain other activities and projects.” (Senate, No. 2575).

For the Committee:

Michael J. Rodrigues  
Joanne M. Comerford  
Patrick M. O’Connor

Aaron Michlewitz  
Ann-Margaret Ferrante  
Todd M. Smola

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 purpose, which is 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 appropriation act  
2 and other appropriation acts for fiscal year 2025, the sums set forth in section 2 are hereby  
3 appropriated from the General Fund unless specifically designated otherwise in this act or in  
4 those appropriation acts, for the several purposes and subject to the conditions specified in this  
5 act or in those appropriation acts, and subject to the laws regulating the disbursement of public  
6 funds for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025. These sums shall be in addition to any amounts  
7 previously appropriated and made available for the purposes of those items. These sums shall be  
8 made available through the fiscal year ending June 30, 2026.

9           SECTION 2.

10                                   EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF VETERANS' SERVICES

11   1410-0400   Veterans' Benefits.....\$5,800,000

12                                   OFFICE OF THE COMPTROLLER

13   1599-3384   Settlements and Judgments.....\$28,917,460

14                                   EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

15 *Department of Transitional Assistance*

16	4400-1004	Healthy Incentives Program.....	\$7,500,000
17	4405-2000	State Supplement to the Social Security Income program.....	\$3,000,000
18	4408-1000	Emergency Aid to Elderly, Disabled and Children.....	\$1,000,000

19 *Department of Public Health*

20	4513-1012	Women Infants and Children Program Manufacturer Rebates.....	\$400,000
21	4590-0912	Western Massachusetts Hospital Retained Revenue .....	\$1,200,000

22 *Executive Office of Aging and Independence*

23	9110-1630	Home Care Services.....	\$60,000,000
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24 EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF HOUSING AND LIVABLE COMMUNITIES

25 *Office of the Secretary of Housing and Livable Communities*

26	7004-9316	Residential Assistance for Families in Transition .....	\$42,910,506
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27 EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF PUBLIC SAFETY AND SECURITY

28 *State Police*

29	8100-0006	Private Detail Retained Revenue .....	\$7,750,000
30	8100-1004	State Police Crime Laboratory .....	\$4,193,083

31 *Military Division*

32	8700-0001	Military Division.....	\$593,539
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33 SECTION 2A. To provide for certain unanticipated obligations of the commonwealth, to  
 34 provide for an alteration of purpose for current appropriations, and to meet certain requirements  
 35 of law, the sums set forth in this section are hereby appropriated from the General Fund or the  
 36 Transitional Escrow Fund established in section 16 of chapter 76 of the acts of 2021, as amended  
 37 by section 4 of chapter 98 of the acts of 2022, unless specifically designated otherwise in this  
 38 section, for the several purposes and subject to the conditions specified in this section, and  
 39 subject to the laws regulating the disbursement of public funds for the fiscal year ending June 30,  
 40 2025. Except as otherwise stated, these sums shall be made available through the fiscal year  
 41 ending June 30, 2026.

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JUDICIARY

*Committee for Public Counsel Services*

0321-1599 For a reserve to expand the number of public defenders employed by the committee for public counsel services established in chapter 211D of the General Laws; provided, that the expansion shall prioritize increasing the proportion of indigent clients represented by public defenders in a manner that ensures clients are timely represented by counsel; provided further, that the committee shall prioritize the hiring of public defenders that serve areas with unrepresented individuals awaiting counsel assignment, including counties with a recent history of private bar advocate work stoppages; provided further, that the committee shall use best efforts to hire approximately 160 new attorneys in the public defender division by the end of fiscal year 2026 and an additional 160 new attorneys in said division by the end of fiscal year 2027; provided further, that the committee may transfer funds from this item to item 0321-1500 of section 2 of the general appropriations acts for fiscal years 2026 and 2027; provided further, that not later than September 1, 2025, the committee shall submit a hiring plan to the clerks of the senate and house of representatives, the joint committee on the judiciary and the senate and house committees on ways and means, which shall include an update on hiring activity under this item to date of the plan’s submission and outline the committee’s plan to hire attorneys in a manner that ensures clients are timely represented by counsel; provided further, that not later than July 15, 2026, the committee shall submit a report to the clerks of the senate and house of representatives, the joint committee on the judiciary and the senate and house committees on ways and means that shall include, but not be limited to: (i) the total number of public defenders employed by the committee; (ii) the number of public defenders hired under this item, delineated by county served; (iii) the total number of cases handled by the committee in fiscal year 2026, delineated by whether the case was handled by a public defender or a private bar advocate and the type of case; (iv) the average caseload per public defender; (v) the change to the proportion of indigent clients represented by public defenders due to new public defenders hired under this item; (vi) the estimated reduction in hours billed by private bar advocates due to the increase in public defenders hired under this item and the savings associated with that reduction in hours billed; and (vii) recommendations on the future balance of cases between public defenders and private bar advocates; and provided further, that the funds appropriated in this item shall be made available through June 30, 2027 .....\$40,000,000

EXECUTIVE OFFICE FOR ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE

*Reserves*

1599-1778 For a reserve to support the creation of the Brooke House in Mattapan by 2Life Development Inc.; provided, that the Brooke House shall create and maintain not less than 127 units of senior housing; provided further, that the housing shall be reserved for seniors with incomes of not more than 60 per cent of the area median income; provided further, that the

79 Brooke House shall include space for the Shattuck Child Care Center; and provided further, that  
80 the Brooke House shall include space for a community health care center that shall provide  
81 services to the broader community .....\$2,000,000

82 EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

83 *Department of Transitional Assistance*

84 4400-1033 For the costs associated with the transition to chipped electronic benefits transfer  
85 cards by the department of transitional assistance; provided, that at the direction of the  
86 commissioner of transitional assistance, funds may be transferred from this item to item 4400-  
87 1000 of section 2 of the general appropriations act for fiscal years 2025, 2026 and 2027;  
88 provided further, that any unexpended funds available after the completion of the transition to  
89 chipped electronic benefits transfer cards shall be expended on reimbursements to clients who  
90 have had their federal supplemental nutrition assistance program payments stolen through  
91 electronic benefit transfer card skimming, card cloning or other similar fraudulent electronically-  
92 based method; and provided further, that funds appropriated in this item shall be made available  
93 for these purposes through the fiscal year ending June 30, 2027 .....\$15,500,000

94 *Department of Public Health*

95 4510-0794 For grants to reimburse municipalities for extraordinary emergency medical  
96 service costs; provided, that funds in this item shall be administered by the department of public  
97 health and shall be reimbursed based on eligibility criteria established by the department;  
98 provided further, that not less than \$5,000,000 shall be distributed as grants to the fire  
99 departments in the towns of Ashby, Ayer, Boxborough, Groton, Harvard, Littleton, Lunenburg,  
100 Pepperell, Shirley, Townsend, Westford, the city of Leominster and the Devens fire department  
101 established pursuant to chapter 498 of the acts of 1993; provided further, that said funds shall be  
102 distributed based on criteria established by the department that shall consider the following: (i)  
103 the proportional share of emergency medical call volume among the departments eligible for  
104 these funds; (ii) the increased distance travelled to the nearest emergency department caused by  
105 the closure of Nashoba Valley Medical Center; and (iii) increased overtime costs incurred by the  
106 departments eligible for these funds; provided further, that not later than December 13, 2025, the  
107 department shall submit a report to the house and senate committees on ways and means which  
108 shall include, but shall not be limited to, the expenditures and planned expenditures from this  
109 item delineated by recipient; and provided further, that funds in this item shall be made available  
110 until June 30, 2027 .....\$10,000,000

111 EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF HOUSING AND LIVABLE COMMUNITIES

112 *Office of the Secretary of Housing and Livable Communities*

113 1595-1779 For a transfer to the Fair Housing Fund established in section 2JJJJJ of chapter  
114 29 of the General Laws .....\$1,000,000

115 SECTION 3. Section 65 of chapter 3 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2022  
116 Official Edition, is hereby amended by adding the following paragraph:-

117 There shall be established and set up on the books of the commonwealth a Senate Artistic  
118 Upgrade and Representation Fund, which shall be used, without further appropriation, for  
119 purposes, including, but not limited to, upgrading and restoring historical and artistic qualities of  
120 quarters in the state house used by the members of the senate and its employees. The chief  
121 financial officer of the senate shall administer the fund. The fund shall consist of appropriations  
122 authorized by the general court and specifically designated to be credited to the fund; provided,  
123 however, that items authorized to be transferred under section 7M of chapter 29 may be  
124 transferred to the fund by the chief financial officer of the senate. The fund shall not be subject to  
125 section 13A of said chapter 29 and any unexpended balance in the fund at the end of a fiscal year  
126 shall not revert to the General Fund and shall be available for expenditure in subsequent fiscal  
127 years. An accounting of all fund activity shall be reported in the annual fiscal year audit  
128 conducted pursuant to applicable senate rules.

129 SECTION 4. Section 40 of chapter 6 of the General Laws, as so appearing, is hereby  
130 amended by striking out subsection (d) and inserting in place thereof the following subsection:-

131 (d) The boards of trustees for each state-operated veterans' home may receive donations  
132 to benefit the homes. The state treasurer shall receive, deposit and invest all donations made to  
133 the state-operated veterans' homes. The trustees may expend the donated funds for the direct

134 benefit of the veterans who reside in the state-operated veterans' homes, acting as fiduciaries  
135 with the care, skill and diligence that a prudent person would use.

136 SECTION 5. Section 61 of chapter 7 of the General Laws, as so appearing, is hereby  
137 amended by striking out, in line 132, the words "March 15" and inserting in place thereof the  
138 following words:- June 1.

139 SECTION 6. Chapter 10 of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after  
140 section 35M the following section:-

141 Section 35M1/2. (a) There shall be established and set up on the books of the  
142 commonwealth a separate fund to be known as the Medical Peer Support Trust Fund to be used,  
143 without prior appropriation, by the physician health program authorized by the board of  
144 registration in medicine pursuant to section 5 of chapter 112 and 243 CMR 2.07(23)(b) as a  
145 diversionary program.

146 (b) The Medical Peer Support Trust Fund shall be financed by a surcharge of not less  
147 than \$50 on each full license renewal or issuance of a new full license to be collected by the  
148 board of registration in medicine for every physician licensed under section 2 of said chapter 112  
149 in addition to other license fees. All money deposited into the fund shall be expended exclusively  
150 by the physician health program pursuant to said section 5 of said chapter 112 and said 243 CMR  
151 2.07(23)(b) for its operations and administration and shall not be subject to appropriation by the  
152 general court.

153 SECTION 7. Section 11M of chapter 12 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2022  
154 Official Edition, is hereby amended by striking out, in lines 52 to 54, inclusive, the words " ;  
155 provided, however, that the commission shall not approve such a request if the request would  
156 exceed an annual reimbursement of \$3,000,000".

157 SECTION 8. Subsection (b) of section 5L of chapter 18 of the General Laws, as so  
158 appearing, is hereby amended by striking out clause (2) and inserting in place thereof the  
159 following 2 clauses:-

160 (2) possesses, buys, sells, uses, alters, accepts or transfers food stamp benefits in any  
161 manner not authorized by the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008, 7 U.S.C. § 2011, as amended; or  
162 (3) steals food stamp benefits using an unauthorized electronic or other intercept device.

163 SECTION 9. Section 16 of chapter 23D of the General Laws is hereby amended by  
164 striking out, in line 2, as appearing in the 2022 Official Edition, the words “Growth Capital  
165 Corporation” and inserting in place thereof the following words:- Development Finance Agency

166 SECTION 10. Section 1 of chapter 23G of the General Laws is hereby amended by  
167 striking out the definition of “Massachusetts Growth Capital Corporation”, inserted by section 51  
168 of chapter 238 of the acts of 2024, and inserting in place thereof the following definition:-

169 “Massachusetts Growth Capital Corporation”, the Massachusetts Growth Capital  
170 Corporation, the power, functions, assets and liabilities of which have been merged into the  
171 Massachusetts Development Finance Agency.

172 SECTION 11. Subsection (l) of section 2 of said chapter 23G, as appearing in section 55  
173 of chapter 238 of the acts of 2024, is hereby amended by striking out the first sentence and  
174 inserting in place thereof the following sentence:- The agency shall be the successor to the  
175 Massachusetts Growth Capital Corporation.

176 SECTION 12. Said section 2 of said chapter 23G is hereby further amended by striking  
177 out subsection (m), as so appearing.

178 SECTION 13. Section 3 of said chapter 23G is hereby amended by striking out clause  
179 (36), as appearing in section 56 of chapter 238 of the acts of 2024, and inserting in place thereof  
180 the following clause:-

181 (36) to borrow money by the issuance of debt obligations whether tax exempt or taxable  
182 and secure such obligations by the pledge of its revenues or the revenues, mortgages and notes of  
183 others;

184 SECTION 14. Said section 3 of said chapter 23G is hereby further amended by striking  
185 out, in line 236, as appearing in the 2022 Official Edition, the words “, to administer trusts”.

186 SECTION 15. Section 8 of said chapter 23G, as so appearing, is hereby amended by  
187 inserting after the word “directors”, in line 134, the following words:- or a duly authorized  
188 committee of the board.

189 SECTION 16. Section 29A of said chapter 23G is hereby amended by striking out, in line  
190 221, as so appearing, the words “convene on a monthly basis in order to”.

191 SECTION 17. Subsection (b) of section 48 of said chapter 23G, as appearing in section  
192 58 of chapter 238 of the acts of 2024, is hereby amended by striking out, the word “corporation”,  
193 the first time it appears, and inserting in place thereof the following word:- agency.

194 SECTION 18. Chapter 29 of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after  
195 section 2KKKKKK the following section:-

196 Section 2LLLLLL. (a) There shall be established and set up on the books of the  
197 commonwealth a separate, non-budgeted special revenue fund known as the Office of the  
198 Inspector General Recovery Fund, which shall be administered by the inspector general. The  
199 fund shall be credited with any money payable to the inspector general from civil recoveries,

200 settlement funds or recoupment of administrative and investigatory costs and any interest earned  
201 from money in the fund.

202 (b) Amounts credited to the fund shall be expended, without further appropriation, for the  
203 office of the inspector general’s operational, administrative and investigatory purposes.

204 (c) The unexpended balance in the fund at the end of a fiscal year shall not revert to the  
205 General Fund and shall be available for expenditure in subsequent fiscal years. No expenditure  
206 made from the fund shall cause the fund to be in deficit at any point.

207 (d) Annually, not later than January 1, the office of the inspector general shall report to  
208 the house and senate committees on ways and means on disbursements from the fund and the  
209 balance of the fund.

210 SECTION 19. The third paragraph of section 33 of chapter 31 of the General Laws, as  
211 appearing in the 2022 Official Edition, is hereby amended by inserting after the word  
212 “employment”, in line 52, the following words:- ; provided, however, that the length of service  
213 of a person appointed through an original appointment to a civil service position of municipal  
214 police officer or fire officer from a local public safety register pursuant to section 59A shall be  
215 calculated from and, in all instances shall remain, the date of such original appointment from the  
216 register and shall not be subject to adjustment at any time for prior employment by the  
217 commonwealth or another city or town.

218 SECTION 20. The second paragraph of section 59 of said chapter 31, as amended by  
219 section 145 of chapter 238 of the acts of 2024, is hereby further amended by striking out the  
220 words “three years after certification” and inserting in place thereof the following words:- 3  
221 years after appointment and performance of the job duties.

222 SECTION 21. Subsection (a) of section 59A of said chapter 31, inserted by section 147  
223 of said chapter 238, is hereby amended by striking out the words “police and firefighter” and  
224 inserting in place thereof the following words:- police, MBTA police and municipal firefighter.

225 SECTION 22. Said section 59A of said chapter 31, as inserted by said section 147 of said  
226 chapter 238, is hereby further amended by adding the following subsection:-

227 (h) Notwithstanding any prior appointments, for any person who receives an appointment  
228 pursuant to this section, the local public safety register appointment date shall be considered the  
229 person’s seniority date for all purposes under this chapter.

230 SECTION 23. The second sentence of subsection (a) of section 64A of chapter 60 of the  
231 General Laws, as appearing in section 93 of chapter 140 of the acts of 2024, is hereby amended  
232 by striking out the figure “14” and inserting in place thereof the following figure:- 30.

233 SECTION 24. Section 68 of said chapter 60, as appearing in the 2022 Official Edition, is  
234 hereby amended by striking out, in line 9, the word “sixteen” and inserting in place thereof the  
235 following figure:- 8.

236 SECTION 25. Section 1B of chapter 69 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2022  
237 Official Edition, is hereby amended by inserting after the thirteenth paragraph, in lines 77 to 82,  
238 inclusive, the following paragraph:-

239 The board shall promulgate regulations establishing standards for the provision of  
240 interpretation and translation services, including standards for the qualification of interpreters  
241 and translators, to limited English proficient parents and legal guardians of all public school  
242 students. Such regulations shall include but not be limited to the following qualifications: (i)  
243 bilingualism; (ii) knowledge in both languages of specialized terms or concepts; (iii) training for

244 interpreters and translators; (iv) ethics of interpreting and translating; and (v) the need to  
245 maintain confidentiality.

246 SECTION 26. The definition of “School resource officer” in section 37P of chapter 71 of  
247 the General Laws, as so appearing, is hereby amended by striking out the last sentence.

248 SECTION 27. Section 4 of chapter 71A of the General Laws, as so appearing, is hereby  
249 amended by inserting after the words “component”, in line 13, the following words:- and shall be  
250 designed so that English learners can gain proficiency in English and also acquire grade-level  
251 skills, competencies and knowledge consistent with the academic standards required by section  
252 1D of chapter 69.

253 SECTION 28. Section 5 of said chapter 71A, as so appearing, is hereby amended by  
254 adding the following subsection:-

255 (c) School districts shall not recommend that parents or legal guardians decline all or  
256 some services within an English learner program for any reason, including facilitating scheduling  
257 of special education services or other scheduling reasons.

258 SECTION 29. Section 3 of chapter 71B of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2022  
259 Official Edition, is hereby amended by inserting in the sixth paragraph after the words  
260 “emotional development.”, in line 145, the following 4 sentences:- When conducting an  
261 evaluation for a student who is an English learner as defined in section 2 of chapter 71A, school  
262 committees shall consider the English language proficiency of the student. Assessments and  
263 other evaluation materials used to evaluate said student shall be provided and administered in the  
264 student’s primary language and in the form most likely to yield accurate information on what the  
265 student knows and can do academically, developmentally, and functionally. The individualized  
266 education program team shall consider the language needs of a student who is an English learner

267 as those needs relate to such individualized education program with the participation of 1 or  
268 more individuals with the following: (i) requisite knowledge of the student’s language needs (ii)  
269 training and expertise in second language acquisition; and (iii) an understanding of how to  
270 differentiate between the student’s limited English proficiency and the student’s disability. To  
271 satisfy this participation requirement, such individuals may participate in the individualized  
272 education program meeting by either attending the individualized education program team  
273 meeting or by submitting in writing to the individualized education program team and parent or  
274 legal guardian, input into the development of the individualized education program prior to the  
275 meeting.

276 SECTION 30. The ninth paragraph of said section 3 of said chapter 71B, as so appearing,  
277 is hereby amended by adding the following sentence:- The department shall promulgate  
278 regulations to continue in effect and enforce the provisions of 20 U.S.C. 1415(k) in effect on  
279 January 1, 2025.

280 SECTION 31. Section 5 of chapter 76 of the General Laws, as so appearing, is hereby  
281 amended by inserting after the word “origin”, in line 11, the following words:- , immigration or  
282 citizenship status, disability.

283 SECTION 32. Section 7I of chapter 90 of the General Laws, as so appearing in the 2022  
284 Official Edition, is hereby amended by inserting after the word “vehicles”, in line 8, the  
285 following words:- and vehicles operated by the Massachusetts emergency management agency.

286 SECTION 33. Section 1 of chapter 90F of the General Laws, as so appearing, is hereby  
287 amended by striking out, in line 65, the words “(49 App. USC 1801 et seq.) and” and inserting in  
288 place thereof the following words:- , 49 U.S.C. 5101 et seq., and.

289 SECTION 34. Section 4 of said chapter 90F, as so appearing, is hereby amended by  
290 striking out, in line 17, the words “of from \$2,750 to \$11,000 inclusive” and inserting in place  
291 thereof the following words:- pursuant to subsection (b)(2) of Appendix B to 49 C.F.R. 386.

292 SECTION 35. Said section 4 of said chapter 90F, as so appearing, is hereby further  
293 amended by striking out, in lines 22 and 23, the words “of not more than \$10,000” and inserting  
294 in place thereof the following words:- pursuant to subsection (b)(3) of Appendix B to 49 C.F.R.  
295 386.

296 SECTION 36. Section 9 of said chapter 90F, as amended by chapter 313 of the acts of  
297 2024, is hereby further amended by striking out paragraph (D) and inserting in place thereof the  
298 following paragraph:-

299 (D) Any person shall be disqualified from operating a commercial motor vehicle for life  
300 for: (i) using a commercial motor vehicle in the commission of any felony involving the  
301 manufacture, distribution or dispensing of a controlled substance or possession with intent to  
302 manufacture, distribute or dispense a controlled substance; or (ii) using a commercial motor  
303 vehicle in the commission of any felony involving trafficking in persons or organs as prohibited  
304 by sections 50, 51 or 53 of chapter 265 or any felony involving an act or practice of severe forms  
305 of trafficking in persons, as defined in 22 U.S.C. 7102(11).

306 SECTION 37. Said section 9 of said chapter 90F is hereby further amended by striking  
307 out, in lines 66 and 67, as appearing in the 2022 Official Edition, the words “of not less than  
308 \$1,100 and not more than \$2,750” and inserting in place thereof the following words:- pursuant  
309 to subsection (b)(1) of Appendix B to 49 C.F.R. 386.

310 SECTION 38. Subsection (c) of section 34E of chapter 92 of the General Laws, as so  
311 appearing, is hereby amended by striking out, in lines 35 to 45, inclusive, the words “1 member

312 to be appointed by a majority vote of the senator for the Second Suffolk and Middlesex district,  
313 the senator for the Middlesex and Suffolk district, the representative for the Seventeenth Suffolk  
314 district and the representative for the Eighteenth Suffolk district, who shall serve as chair; 2  
315 members to be appointed by the senator for the Second Suffolk and Middlesex district; 2  
316 members to be appointed by the senator for the Middlesex and Suffolk district; 2 members to be  
317 appointed by the representative for the Seventeenth Suffolk district; and 2 members to be  
318 appointed by the representative for the Eighteenth Suffolk district” and inserting in place thereof  
319 the following words:- 3 members to be appointed by the senator for the Suffolk and Middlesex  
320 district; 3 members to be appointed by the representative for the Seventeenth Suffolk district; and  
321 3 members to be appointed by the representative for the Eighteenth Suffolk district.

322 SECTION 39. Section 19F of chapter 94C of the General Laws, inserted by section 42 of  
323 chapter 28 of the acts of 2023, is hereby amended by striking out subsection (a) and inserting in  
324 place thereof the following subsection:-

325 (a) Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, a registered pharmacist  
326 may: (i) prescribe and dispense hormonal contraceptive patches and self-administered oral  
327 hormonal contraceptives to any person, regardless of whether the person has evidence of a  
328 previous prescription from a primary care practitioner or reproductive health care practitioner for  
329 a hormonal contraceptive patch or self-administered oral hormonal contraceptive; and (ii)  
330 prescribe, dispense and administer medications used for the treatment and prevention of human  
331 immunodeficiency virus and sexually transmitted infections as defined by the department.

332 SECTION 40. Chapter 111 of the General Laws is hereby amended by adding the  
333 following section:-

334 Section 249. (a) For the purposes of this section, the definitions in section 1 of chapter  
335 94C shall apply unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

336 (b) At the commissioner's discretion, and in accordance with applicable law, the  
337 department may authorize a pharmacy operated by the department to distribute controlled  
338 substances to health care providers and entities legally authorized to administer, possess,  
339 distribute, deliver or dispense controlled substances for the benefit of any person, whether or not  
340 the person is under the custody, care or supervision of an agency of the commonwealth,  
341 including, but not limited to, applicable controlled substances registration requirements;  
342 provided, however, that such controlled substances shall be: (i) related to the provision of  
343 reproductive health care services or gender-affirming health care services, as those terms are  
344 defined in section 111½ of chapter 12; or (ii) distributed to ensure access to controlled substances  
345 needed to address a risk to the public health; and provided further, that in exercising the authority  
346 granted under this section, the department shall be exempt from obtaining a pharmacy license in  
347 accordance with section 39 of chapter 112.

348 SECTION 41. Chapter 118E of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2022 Official  
349 Edition, is hereby amended by striking out section 6 and inserting in place thereof the following  
350 section:-

351 Section 6. (a) There shall be a MassHealth program advisory committee to advise the  
352 executive office on matters of concern related to policy development and matters related to  
353 effective program administration. The assistant secretary for MassHealth or their designee shall  
354 select members for the advisory committee on a rotating and continuous basis in such numbers  
355 and for such terms as the executive office deems appropriate.

356 (b) The MassHealth program advisory committee shall include at a minimum: (i) 1  
357 member of the MassHealth member advisory committee; (ii) 1 member of a state or local  
358 consumer group or other community-based organization that represents the interests of, or  
359 provides direct service to, MassHealth beneficiaries; (iii) 1 clinical provider or administrator who  
360 is familiar with the health and social needs of MassHealth beneficiaries and with the resources  
361 available and required for their care, including, but not limited to, providers or administrators of  
362 primary care, specialty care and long-term care; (iv) as applicable, 1 member of a Medicaid-  
363 participating managed care entity, including, but not limited to, managed care organizations,  
364 accountable care partnership plans, primary care accountable care organizations, one care plans,  
365 senior care options plans, the behavioral health vendor or the primary care clinician plan; and (v)  
366 1 member of any other state agency that serves MassHealth beneficiaries, who shall serve as an  
367 ex officio, non-voting member.

368 (c) The executive office shall provide the committee with such staff and technical  
369 assistance as necessary to enable the committee to make effective recommendations and such  
370 financial arrangements as necessary to make possible the participation of recipient members.

371 (d) Annually, not later than October 1, the office of Medicaid shall report to the joint  
372 committee on health care financing and the house and senate committees on ways and means on  
373 the activities of the MassHealth program advisory committee in the previous fiscal year. The  
374 report shall include, but shall not be limited to, the names and titles of committee members, dates  
375 of committee meetings, agendas and minutes or notes from such meetings and any  
376 correspondence, memorandum, recommendations or other product of the committee's work.  
377 MassHealth member advisory committee members shall have the option to omit their names  
378 from the report.

379 SECTION 42. Said chapter 118E is hereby further amended by striking out section 9F,  
380 added by section 117 of chapter 224 of the acts of 2012, and inserting in place thereof the  
381 following section:-

382 Section 9F. (a) As used in this section, the following words shall, unless the context  
383 clearly requires otherwise, have the following meanings:

384 “Dual eligible”, or “dually eligible person”, any person age 21 or older and under age 65  
385 at the time of enrollment in a dual eligible managed care organization who is enrolled in both  
386 Medicare and MassHealth.

387 “Dual eligible managed care organization”, a comprehensive network of medical, health  
388 care and long-term services and supports providers that integrates all components of care, either  
389 directly or through subcontracts, and has been contracted with by the executive office to provide  
390 services to dually eligible individuals under this section.

391 (b) The secretary of health and human services may establish, subject to appropriation, all  
392 required federal approvals and agreements and the availability of federal financial participation,  
393 a health care program for dual eligible individuals, aged 21 to 64 at the time of enrollment, who  
394 are dually eligible for benefits under MassHealth Standard or CommonHealth and Medicare  
395 under Title XVIII of the Social Security Act and do not have any additional comprehensive  
396 health coverage. Under the program, the executive office may contract to provide integrated,  
397 comprehensive Medicaid and Medicare services, including medical, behavioral health and long-  
398 term support services for a capitated payment.

399 (c) Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, the secretary of health and  
400 human services may review a request for financial solvency certification by a care delivery  
401 organization based in the commonwealth applying to serve as a Medicare plan caring for

402 residents who are dually eligible for Medicare and Medicaid. Upon determination that  
403 appropriate financial standards, which may be the standards already in place for organizations  
404 with contracts pursuant to this section, have been met, the secretary of health and human services  
405 shall so certify to the centers for Medicare and Medicaid services. The secretary of health and  
406 human services may require the requesting organization to pay a reasonable certification fee.

407 (d) Members of the MassHealth managed care program integrating care for dually  
408 eligible persons shall be provided an independent community care coordinator by the dual  
409 eligible managed care organization, who shall be a participant in the member's care team. The  
410 community care coordinator shall assist in the development of a long-term support and services  
411 care plan. The community care coordinator shall:

412 (i) participate in initial and ongoing assessments of the health and functional status of the  
413 member, including determining appropriateness for long-term care support and services, either in  
414 the form of institutional or community-based care plans and related service packages necessary  
415 to improve or maintain enrollee health and functional status;

416 (ii) arrange and, with the agreement of the member and the care team, coordinate  
417 appropriate institutional and community long-term supports and services, including assistance  
418 with the activities of daily living and instrumental activities of daily living, housing, home-  
419 delivered meals, transportation and, under specific conditions or circumstances established by  
420 the dual eligible managed care organization, authorize a range and amount of community-based  
421 services; and

422 (iii) monitor the appropriate provision and functional outcomes of community long-term  
423 care services, according to the service plan as deemed appropriate by the member and the care  
424 team and track member satisfaction and the appropriate provision and functional outcomes of

425 community long-term care services, according to the service plan as deemed appropriate by the  
426 member and the care team.

427 (e) The dual eligible managed care organization shall not have a direct or indirect  
428 financial ownership interest in an entity that serves as an independent care coordinator. Providers  
429 of institutional or community based long-term services and supports on a compensated basis  
430 shall not function as an independent care coordinator; provided, however, that the secretary may  
431 grant a waiver of this restriction upon a finding that public necessity and convenience require  
432 such a waiver. For the purposes of this section, an organization compensated to provide only  
433 evaluation, assessment, coordination, skills training, peer support and fiscal intermediary  
434 services shall not be considered a provider of long term services and supports.

435 SECTION 43. Section 10H1/2 of said chapter 118E, inserted by section 2 of chapter 388  
436 of the acts of 2024, is hereby amended by striking out the second paragraph and inserting in  
437 place thereof the following paragraph:-

438 The division and its contracted health insurers, health plans, health maintenance  
439 organizations, behavioral health management firms and third-party administrators under contract  
440 to a Medicaid managed care organization or primary care clinician plan shall provide coverage  
441 for the treatment of Down syndrome through medically necessary speech therapy, occupational  
442 therapy, physical therapy and, for individuals under the age of 21, applied behavior analysis  
443 services.

444 SECTION 44. Said chapter 118E is hereby further amended by adding the following  
445 section:-

446 Section 87. Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, the executive  
447 office may directly pay other state agencies, including county correctional facilities and

448 department of correction facilities operated by such state agencies, for any claims related to  
449 Medicaid, under the provisions of Title XIX of the Social Security Act, the children's health  
450 insurance program, under the provisions of Title XXI of the Social Security Act, the health  
451 safety net, under the provisions of sections 64 through 69, the children's medical security plan,  
452 under the provisions of section 10F, and other similar healthcare programs; provided, that such  
453 state agencies meet all applicable conditions of participation in these programs, as determined by  
454 the executive office in its sole discretion.

455 SECTION 45. Section 131M of chapter 140 of the General Laws, as appearing in section  
456 71 of chapter 135 of the acts of 2024, is hereby amended by striking out subsection (e) and  
457 inserting in place thereof the following subsection:-

458 (e) This section shall not apply to transfer or possession by: (i) a qualified law  
459 enforcement officer or a qualified retired law enforcement officer, as defined in the Law  
460 Enforcement Officers Safety Act of 2004, 18 U.S.C. sections 926B and 926C, respectively, as  
461 amended; (ii) a law enforcement officer as defined in section 1 of chapter 6E who is currently  
462 certified pursuant to section 4 of said chapter 6E; provided, however, that to qualify for the  
463 exemption under this subsection, the certification of a law enforcement officer as defined in  
464 section 1 of chapter 6E shall not be suspended, limited, or restricted and the officer shall be  
465 permitted to perform police duties and functions involving firearms in accordance with chapter  
466 6E and the regulations promulgated thereunder; (iii) a federal, state or local law enforcement  
467 agency; or (iv) a federally licensed manufacturer solely for sale or transfer in another state or for  
468 export.

469 SECTION 46. Section 63 of chapter 175 of the General Laws is hereby amended by  
470 inserting after the word “thereof”, in line 398, as appearing in the 2022 Official Edition, the  
471 following words: - or shares of an exchange-traded fund.

472 SECTION 47. Said section 63 of said chapter 175 is hereby further amended by inserting  
473 after the word “money”, in line 402, as so appearing, the following words:- or shares of an  
474 exchange-traded fund.

475 SECTION 48. Subsection (b) of section 6 of chapter 211D of the General Laws, as so  
476 appearing, is hereby amended by inserting after the first paragraph the following paragraph:-

477 The committee shall require all contractual agreements for the appointment of private  
478 counsel to prescribe requirements for the minimum coverage and availability to be required for  
479 private counsel. Private counsel contractual agreements shall be required to be renewed  
480 biannually.

481 SECTION 49. Section 11 of said chapter 211D, as so appearing, is hereby amended by  
482 striking out subsection (a) and inserting in place thereof the following subsection:-

483 (a)(1) The rates of compensation payable to all counsel, who are appointed or assigned to  
484 represent indigents within the private counsel division of the committee in accordance with the  
485 provisions of paragraph (b) of section 6, shall, subject to appropriation, be as follows: for  
486 homicide cases the rate of compensation shall be \$130 per hour; for superior court non-homicide  
487 cases, including sexually dangerous person cases, the rate of compensation shall be \$95 per hour;  
488 for district court cases and children in need of services cases the rate of compensation shall be  
489 \$75 per hour; for children and family law cases and care and protection cases the rate of  
490 compensation shall be \$95 per hour; for sex offender registry cases and mental health cases the  
491 rate of compensation shall be \$75 per hour. These rates of compensation shall be reviewed

492 periodically at public hearings held by the committee at appropriate locations throughout the  
493 commonwealth, and notice shall be given to all state, county and local bar associations and other  
494 interested groups, of such hearings by letter and publication in advance of such hearings. This  
495 periodic review shall take place not less than once every 3 years.

496 (2) An agreement between private bar advocates to refuse to compete for or accept new  
497 appointments or assignments unless the rates of pay under this section are increased shall be  
498 evidence of a violation of section 4 of chapter 93; provided, that evidence of an agreement  
499 between private bar advocates to refuse to compete for or accept new appointments or  
500 assignments unless the rates of pay under this section are increased shall include, but shall not be  
501 limited to, any county where not less than 25 per cent of private bar advocates are refusing to  
502 compete for or accept new appointments or assignments.

503 SECTION 50. Subsection (a) of said section 11 of said chapter 211D, as amended by  
504 section 49, is hereby further amended by striking out paragraph (1) and inserting in place thereof  
505 the following paragraph:-

506 (a)(1) The rates of compensation payable to all counsel, who are appointed or assigned to  
507 represent indigents within the private counsel division of the committee in accordance with the  
508 provisions of paragraph (b) of section 6, shall, subject to appropriation, be as follows: for  
509 homicide cases the rate of compensation shall be \$140 per hour; for superior court non-homicide  
510 cases, including sexually dangerous person cases, the rate of compensation shall be \$105 per  
511 hour; for district court cases and children in need of services cases the rate of compensation shall  
512 be \$85 per hour; for children and family law cases and care and protection cases the rate of  
513 compensation shall be \$105 per hour; for sex offender registry cases and mental health cases the  
514 rate of compensation shall be \$85 per hour. These rates of compensation shall be reviewed

515 periodically at public hearings held by the committee at appropriate locations throughout the  
516 commonwealth, and notice shall be given to all state, county and local bar associations and other  
517 interested groups, of such hearings by letter and publication in advance of such hearings. This  
518 periodic review shall take place not less than once every 3 years.

519 SECTION 51. Subsection (j) of section 10 of chapter 269 of the General Laws, as most  
520 recently amended by section 123 of chapter 135 of the acts of 2024, is hereby further amended  
521 by striking out the second paragraph and inserting in place thereof the following paragraph:-

522 Whoever, not being a qualified law enforcement officer, a qualified retired law  
523 enforcement officer, as defined in the Law Enforcement Officers Safety Act of 2004, 18 U.S.C.  
524 sections 926B and 926C, respectively, as amended, or a law enforcement officer as defined in  
525 section 1 of chapter 6E who is currently certified pursuant to section 4 of said chapter 6E and  
526 notwithstanding any license obtained by the person pursuant to chapter 140, carries on their  
527 person a firearm, loaded or unloaded, or other dangerous weapon in any building or on the  
528 grounds of any elementary or secondary school, college or university, including transport used  
529 for students of said institution without the written authorization of the board or officer in charge  
530 of the elementary or secondary school, college or university shall be punished by a fine of not  
531 more than \$1,000 or by imprisonment for not more than 2 years or both. A qualified law  
532 enforcement officer or a qualified retired law enforcement officer, as defined in the Law  
533 Enforcement Officers Safety Act of 2004, 18 U.S.C. sections 926B and 926C, respectively, as  
534 amended, or a law enforcement officer as defined in section 1 of chapter 6E who is currently  
535 certified pursuant to section 4 of said chapter 6E may arrest without a warrant and detain a  
536 person found carrying a firearm in violation of this paragraph; provided, however, that to qualify  
537 for the exemption under this paragraph, the certification of a law enforcement officer as defined

538 in section 1 of chapter 6E shall not be suspended, limited or restricted and the officer shall be  
539 permitted to perform police duties and functions involving firearms in accordance with chapter  
540 6E and the regulations promulgated thereunder.

541 SECTION 52. Subsection (k) of said section 10 of said chapter 269, inserted by section  
542 124 of chapter 135 of the acts of 2024, is hereby amended by striking out paragraph (5) and  
543 inserting in place thereof the following paragraph:-

544 (5) This subsection shall not apply to a law enforcement officer as defined in section 1 of  
545 chapter 6E who is currently certified pursuant to section 4 of said chapter 6E, a qualified law  
546 enforcement officer or a qualified retired law enforcement officer as defined in the Law  
547 Enforcement Officers Safety Act of 2004, 18 U.S.C. sections 926B and 926C, respectively, as  
548 amended or to a security guard employed at the prohibited area while at the location of their  
549 employment and during the course of their employment; provided, however, that to qualify for  
550 the exemption under this subsection, the certification of a law enforcement officer as defined in  
551 section 1 of chapter 6E shall not be suspended, limited or restricted and the officer shall be  
552 permitted to perform police duties and functions involving firearms in accordance with chapter  
553 6E and the regulations promulgated thereunder. Nothing in this paragraph shall limit the  
554 authority of any municipality, county or department, division, commission, board, agency or  
555 court of the commonwealth to adopt policies further restricting the possession of firearms in  
556 areas under their control.

557 SECTION 53. Section 67 of chapter 102 of the acts of 2021 is hereby amended by  
558 striking out the figure “2025”, as inserted by section 33 of chapter 248 of the acts of 2024, and  
559 inserting in place thereof the following figure:- 2026.

560 SECTION 54. Subsection (d) of section 81 of chapter 179 of the acts of 2022 is hereby  
561 amended by striking out paragraphs (5) and (6), as appearing in section 103 of chapter 239 of the  
562 acts of 2024, and inserting in place thereof the following 2 paragraphs:-

563 (5) Not later than 12 months after the completion of each assessment, each electric  
564 distribution company may submit to the department of public utilities its plan and an application  
565 to revise its rates to account for the additional distribution infrastructure included in the plan  
566 pursuant to paragraph (4). The application shall include: (i) testimony that explains how the  
567 application is consistent with the plan pursuant to said paragraph (4); (ii) an explanation of the  
568 need for each distribution infrastructure investment; (iii) supporting documentation  
569 demonstrating that the actual or estimated costs for each distribution infrastructure investment  
570 are reasonable; and (iv) the actual or estimated in-service date of the distribution infrastructure  
571 investment. Such application shall be preliminarily approved by the department of public utilities  
572 not later than 6 months after submission; provided, however, that the requested rate revision is  
573 consistent with the department's practices and incremental costs are not otherwise accounted for  
574 in the electric distribution company's existing rates. The department's review of such application  
575 shall not be construed as a prudence review. The electric distribution company's application shall  
576 be deemed approved if the department does not act within 6 months after the application is  
577 submitted.

578 (6) The department of public utilities shall review the additional distribution  
579 infrastructure investments planned pursuant to paragraph (4) during the next general rate case of  
580 the electric distribution company. Each electric distribution company shall be entitled to cost  
581 recovery of such infrastructure investments where the electric distribution company  
582 demonstrates: (i) how it evaluated advanced transmission technologies, energy storage, other

583 infrastructure investments and alternatives other than infrastructure investments to satisfy  
584 projected demand; (ii) that the proposed infrastructure investments were cost effective compared  
585 with the alternatives, provide net benefits for customers and meet the criteria enumerated in  
586 clauses (i) to (vi), inclusive, of subsection (a) of said section 92B of said chapter 164; and (iii)  
587 that the expenses are incremental to the costs already recovered through base distribution rates or  
588 recovered through reconciling mechanisms. The department may, as necessary, require  
589 customers to be credited for any change in rates made pursuant to paragraph (5) with interest.

590 SECTION 55. Section 82 of said chapter 179, as appearing in section 105 of chapter 239  
591 of the acts of 2024, is hereby further amended, by striking out the figure “2025” and inserting  
592 place thereof the following figure:- 2027.

593 SECTION 56. Item 2000-0100 of section 2 of chapter 28 of the acts of 2023, as amended  
594 by section 61 of chapter 248 of the acts of 2024, is hereby further amended by inserting after the  
595 word “county” the following words:- and such funds shall be made available until June 30, 2025.

596 SECTION 57. Item 4000-0300 of said section 2 of said chapter 28 is hereby amended by  
597 striking out the figure “2025”, as inserted by section 79 of chapter 248 of the acts of 2024, and  
598 inserting in place thereof the following figure:- 2026.

599 SECTION 58. Item 0910-0210 of section 2 of chapter 140 of the acts of 2024 is hereby  
600 amended by inserting after the word “system” the following words:- ; provided further, that  
601 notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, funds may be collected in the prior  
602 fiscal year for service programs or activities delivered during the next fiscal year; and provided  
603 further, that any unspent balance at the close of the current fiscal year up to the ceiling shall  
604 remain in the account and may be expended for the item in the following fiscal year.

605 SECTION 59. Item 2000-0100 of said section 2 of said chapter 140 is hereby amended  
606 by adding the following words:- and such funds shall be made available until June 30, 2026.

607 SECTION 60. Item 2511-0107 of said section 2 of said chapter 140 is hereby amended  
608 by inserting after the words “Essex county” the following words:- and for expenses related to  
609 opening and operating the Seacoast Regional Food Hub, located in the town of Salisbury, serving  
610 the Lower Merrimack Valley Food Coalition and such funds shall be made available until June  
611 30, 2026.

612 SECTION 61. Item 4405-2000 of said section 2 of said chapter 140 is hereby amended  
613 by striking out the words “provided further, that rates for residential care facilities and rest  
614 homes effective July 1, 2024, established under section 13D of chapter 118E of the General  
615 Laws, shall cumulatively total not less than rates effective January 1, 2024” and inserting in  
616 place thereof the following words:- provided further, that rates for residential care facilities and  
617 rest homes effective July 1, 2024, established under section 13D of chapter 118E of the General  
618 Laws, shall cumulatively total not less than \$3,000,000 more than rates effective January 1,  
619 2024.

620 SECTION 62. Item 4408-1000 of said section 2 of said chapter 140 is hereby amended  
621 by striking out the words “provided further, that rates for residential care facilities and rest  
622 homes effective July 1, 2024, established under section 13D of chapter 118E of the General  
623 Laws, shall cumulatively total not less than rates effective January 1, 2024” and inserting in  
624 place thereof the following words:- provided further, that rates for residential care facilities and  
625 rest homes effective July 1, 2024, established under section 13D of chapter 118E of the General  
626 Laws, shall cumulatively total not less than \$1,000,000 more than rates effective January 1,  
627 2024.

628 SECTION 63. Item 4513-1012 of said section 2 of said chapter 140 is hereby amended  
629 by striking out the figure “\$27,400,000”, each time it appears, and inserting in place thereof, in  
630 each instance, the following figure:- \$27,800,000.

631 SECTION 64. Item 4590-0912 of said section 2 of said chapter 140 is hereby amended  
632 by striking out the figure “\$27,995,640”, each time it appears, and inserting in place thereof, in  
633 each instance, the following figure:- \$29,195,640.

634 SECTION 65. Item 7008-1116 of section 2 of chapter 140 of the acts of 2024 is hereby  
635 amended by inserting after the words “celebrate the 50th anniversary” the following words:- and  
636 such funds shall be made available until June 30, 2026.

637 SECTION 66. Item 8100-0006 of said section 2 of said chapter 140 is hereby amended  
638 by striking out the figure “\$37,250,000”, each time it appears, and inserting in place thereof, in  
639 each instance, the following figure:- \$45,000,000.

640 SECTION 67. Item 9110-1630 of said section 2 of said chapter 140 is hereby amended  
641 by inserting after the word “placements” the following words:- ; and provided further, that the  
642 secretary of the executive office of aging and independence may transfer funds between items  
643 9110-0600, 9110-1630 and 9110-1633.

644 SECTION 68. Section 217 of said chapter 140 is hereby amended by striking out the  
645 figure “2025” and inserting in place thereof the following figure:- 2026.

646 SECTION 69. Subsection (d) of section 126 of chapter 150 of the acts of 2024 is hereby  
647 amended by striking out the words “June 30” and inserting in place thereof the following words:-  
648 December 31.

649 SECTION 70. Subsection (c) of section 32 of chapter 197 of the acts of 2024 is hereby  
650 amended by striking out the words: “August 1, 2025” and inserting in place thereof the following  
651 words:- December 31, 2025.

652 SECTION 71. Item 7002-1523 of section 2 of chapter 238 of the acts of 2024 is hereby  
653 amended by striking out the words “developed with the assistance of a Small Business  
654 Innovation Research or Small Business Technology Transfer grant from a federal agency  
655 including, but not limited to, the United States Department of Energy, the United States  
656 Department of Agriculture, the United States Food and Drug Administration or the National  
657 Science Foundation”.

658 SECTION 72. The first sentence of section 293 of said chapter 238 is hereby amended by  
659 striking out, each time they appear, the words “and officers”.

660 SECTION 73. Subsection (d) of section 303 of chapter 238 of the acts of 2024 is hereby  
661 amended by striking out the figure “2025” and inserting in place thereof the following figure:-  
662 2026.

663 SECTION 74. Section 304 of said chapter 238 is hereby amended by striking out the  
664 word “agriculture” and inserting in place thereof the following words:- public health.

665 SECTION 75. Said section 304 of said chapter 238 is hereby further amended by striking  
666 out the figure “2025” and inserting in place thereof the following figure:- 2026.

667 SECTION 76. Chapter 239 of the acts of 2024 is hereby amended by striking out section  
668 65 and inserting in place thereof the following section:-

669 Section 65. Said section 69J of said chapter 164, as so appearing, is hereby further  
670 amended by striking out the third paragraph and inserting in place thereof the following  
671 paragraph:-

672 A petition to construct a facility shall include, in such form and detail as the board shall  
673 from time to time prescribe: (i) a description of the facility, site and surrounding areas; (ii) an  
674 analysis of the need for the facility, either within or outside, or both within and outside the  
675 commonwealth, including a description of the energy benefits of the facility; (iii) a description of  
676 the alternatives to the facility, such as other methods of transmitting or storing energy, other site  
677 locations, other sources of electrical power or gas or a reduction of requirements through load  
678 management; (iv) a description of the environmental impacts of the facility, including both  
679 environmental benefits and burdens, that includes a description of efforts to avoid, minimize and  
680 mitigate burdens and efforts to enhance benefits, such as shared use, recreational paths or access  
681 to nature; (v) evidence that all pre-filing consultation and community engagement requirements  
682 established by the board have been satisfied and, if not, the applicant shall demonstrate good  
683 cause for a waiver of the requirements that could not be satisfied by the applicant; and (vi) a  
684 cumulative impact analysis. The board may issue and revise filing guidelines after public notice  
685 and a period for comment. Said filing guidelines shall require the applicant to provide minimum  
686 data for review related to climate change impact, land use impact, water resource impact, air  
687 quality impact, fire and other public safety risks, solid waste impact, radiation impact, noise  
688 impact and other public health impacts as determined by the board.

689 SECTION 77. Subsection (b) of section 118 of said chapter 239 is hereby amended by  
690 striking out clauses (v) and (vi) and inserting in place thereof the following clauses:- (v) the  
691 energy storage system cannot be constructed due to any disapprovals, conditions or denials by a  
692 state or local agency or body, except with respect to any lands or interests therein, excluding  
693 public ways, owned or managed by any state agency or local government; or (vi) the energy

694 storage system cannot be constructed because of delays caused by the appeal of any approval,  
695 consent, permit or certificate.

696 SECTION 78. Section 129 of said chapter 239 is hereby amended by striking out the  
697 figure “133” and inserting in place thereof the following figure:- 132.

698 SECTION 79. Item 3000-1142 of section 2A of chapter 248 of the acts of 2024 is hereby  
699 amended by striking out the word “between” and inserting in place thereof the following words:-  
700 from this item to.

701 SECTION 80. Chapter 390 of the acts of 2024 is hereby amended by striking out the  
702 words “public way within 3 miles of the vessel’s waterfront location of origin in the town of  
703 Barnstable and which may pass over the roadways of the town of Yarmouth; provided, however,  
704 that said vessel shall be trucked by a professional licensed boat hauler” and inserting in place  
705 thereof the following words:- locally owned or controlled public way within 3 miles of the  
706 vessel’s waterfront location of origin in the town of Barnstable and which may pass over the  
707 locally owned or controlled roadways of the town of Yarmouth; provided, however, that said  
708 vessel shall be trucked by a professional licensed boat hauler. For the purposes of this section,  
709 public ways shall not include roadways owned or within the control of the Massachusetts  
710 Department of Transportation.

711 SECTION 81. Item 0321-1510 of section 2 of chapter 9 of the acts of 2025 is hereby  
712 amended by striking out the figure “\$213,827,979” and inserting in place thereof the following  
713 figure:- \$241,147,979.

714 SECTION 82. Item 0910-0200 of said section 2 of said chapter 9 is hereby amended by  
715 inserting the following words:- ; provided, that not later than June 30, 2026, the inspector general  
716 shall submit a report to the senate and house clerks, the joint committee on the judiciary and the

717 senate and house committees on ways and means that shall include, but not be limited to: (i) an  
718 examination of existing practices, rules and requirements relative to the determination of  
719 indigency and the assignment of counsel by the trial court, including an analysis and examination  
720 of reimbursement practices and requirements for defendants receiving public representation but  
721 who are found not to be indigent; (ii) a review of billing practices and procedures by bar  
722 advocates and the oversight thereof; (iii) an examination of the caseload of counsel involved in  
723 representation of indigent defendants and the efficacy thereof; (iv) an analysis of the fiscal  
724 impact of increasing the proportion of indigent clients represented by public defenders on the  
725 total cost of indigent defense; and (v) best practices from other jurisdictions to provide adequate  
726 and cost-effective representation of indigent defendants.

727 SECTION 83. Said item 0910-0200 of said section 2 of said chapter 9 is hereby further  
728 amended by striking out the figure “\$6,156,039” and inserting in place thereof the following  
729 figure:- \$6,256,039.

730 SECTION 84. Said item 1595-1068 of said section 2E of said chapter 9 is hereby further  
731 amended by striking out the figure “\$493,900,000” and inserting in place thereof the following  
732 figure:- \$758,980,000.

733 SECTION 85. Item 1595-1068 of section 2E of said chapter 9 is hereby amended by  
734 striking out the figure “\$547,582,400” and inserting in place thereof the following figure:-  
735 \$855,655,520.

736 SECTION 86. Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, the special  
737 commission established in section 149 of chapter 135 of the acts of 2024 is hereby revived and  
738 continued to December 31, 2025. The special commission shall submit its report and

739 recommendations pursuant to said section 149 of said chapter 135 with the clerks of the house of  
740 representatives and the senate not later than December 31, 2025.

741 SECTION 87. Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, sections 62  
742 and 65 of chapter 60 of the General Laws as amended by sections 88 and 94 of chapter 140 of  
743 the acts of 2024 and section 24 shall only apply to land purchased or taken under a tax title on or  
744 after November 1, 2024.

745 SECTION 88. Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, the special  
746 commission established in section 202 of chapter 140 of the acts of 2024 is hereby revived and  
747 continued to October 15, 2025. The special commission shall submit its report and  
748 recommendations, if any, pursuant to said section 202 of said chapter 140 with the clerks of the  
749 house of representatives and the senate not later than October 15, 2025.

750 SECTION 89. Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, the special  
751 commission established in section 127 of chapter 150 of the acts of 2024 is hereby revived and  
752 continued to December 31, 2025. The special commission shall submit its report and  
753 recommendations, if any, pursuant to said section 127 of said chapter 150 with the clerks of the  
754 house of representatives and the senate and the joint committee on housing not later than  
755 December 31, 2025.

756 SECTION 90. The special commission established in section 148 of chapter 135 of the  
757 acts of 2024 is hereby revived and continued and shall file its final report not later than  
758 September 1, 2025.

759 SECTION 91. The special commission established in section 150 of chapter 178 of the  
760 acts of 2024 is hereby revived and continued and shall file its final report not later than  
761 December 31, 2025.

762 SECTION 92. The special commission established in section 152 of chapter 178 of the  
763 acts of 2024 is hereby revived and continued and shall file its final report not later than  
764 December 31, 2025.

765 SECTION 93. The task force established in section 5 of chapter 214 of the acts of 2024 is  
766 hereby revived and continued and shall file its final report not later than November 15, 2025.

767 SECTION 94. Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, the special  
768 commission established in section 128 of chapter 150 of the acts of 2024 is hereby revived and  
769 continued to December 31, 2025. The special commission shall submit its recommendations  
770 pursuant to said section 128 of said chapter 150 with the clerks of the house of representatives  
771 and the senate and the joint committee on housing not later than December 31, 2025.

772 SECTION 95. Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, the special  
773 commission established in section 36 of chapter 285 of the acts of 2024 is hereby revived and  
774 continued to March 30, 2026. The special commission shall submit its report and  
775 recommendations pursuant to said section 36 of said chapter 285 with the clerks of the house of  
776 representatives and the senate not later than March 30, 2026.

777 SECTION 96. Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, the special  
778 legislative commission established in chapter 74 of the acts of 2021 is hereby revived and  
779 continued to September 30, 2025. The special commission shall file its findings and  
780 recommendations pursuant to said chapter 74 with the clerks of the senate and the house of  
781 representatives, the joint committee on children, families and persons with disabilities, the joint  
782 committee on housing, the joint committee on education, the joint committee on community  
783 development and small businesses, the joint committee on economic development and emerging  
784 technologies, the joint committee on public health, the joint committee on racial equity, civil

785 rights, and inclusion and the senate and house committees on ways and means not later than  
786 September 30, 2025.

787 SECTION 97. Notwithstanding sections 185A to 185E, inclusive, of chapter 140 of the  
788 General Laws, as amended by sections 249 and 250 of chapter 238 of the acts of 2024, no person  
789 shall be required to be licensed to engage in the business of selling tickets or the business of  
790 reselling or facilitating a mechanism for 2 or more parties to participate in the resale of any ticket  
791 of admission under said section 185A of said chapter 140 until January 1, 2026.

792 SECTION 98. Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, any  
793 unexpended balances, not to exceed a total of \$40,000,000, in items 4000-0700 and 4000-1426  
794 of section 2 of chapter 140 of the acts of 2024 shall not revert to the General Fund until  
795 September 1, 2025 and may be expended by the executive office of health and human services to  
796 pay for services enumerated in said items 4000-0700 and 4000-1426 provided during fiscal year  
797 2025.

798 SECTION 99. Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, for fiscal year  
799 2025, the secretary of health and human services, with the written approval of the secretary of  
800 administration and finance, may authorize transfers of surplus among items 4000-0320, 4000-  
801 0430, 4000-0500, 4000-0601, 4000-0641, 4000-0700, 4000-0875, 4000-0880, 4000-0885, 4000-  
802 0940, 4000-0950, 4000-0990, 4000-1400, 4000-1420 and 4000-1426.

803 SECTION 100. Notwithstanding the terms of any prior appropriation or any other general  
804 or special law to the contrary, any unexpended funds appropriated to and held by the  
805 Massachusetts Growth Capital Corporation shall be transferred to and expended by the  
806 Massachusetts Development Finance Agency to ensure post-merger continuity of the agency's  
807 programs.

808 SECTION 101. The salary adjustments and other economic benefits authorized by the  
809 following collective bargaining agreements shall be effective for the purposes of section 7 of  
810 chapter 150E of the General Laws:

811 (1) the agreement between the Sheriff of Bristol County and the National Correctional  
812 Employees' Union, Local 103, K-9 Unit, Unit SA7, effective from July 1, 2024 through June 30,  
813 2027;

814 (2) the agreement between the Board of Trustees of the University of Massachusetts and  
815 Service Employees International Union, Local 888, Unit L95, effective from July 1, 2024  
816 through June 30, 2027;

817 (3) the agreement between the Secretary of the Commonwealth and Service Employees  
818 International Union, Local 888 AFL/CIO on behalf of certain employees of the Suffolk Registry  
819 of Deeds, Unit SC2, effective from July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2027;

820 (4) the agreement between the Sheriff of Bristol County and the National Correctional  
821 Employees' Union, Local 103 K-9 Unit, Unit SA7, effective from July 1, 2024 through June 30,  
822 2027;

823 (5) the agreement between the Sheriff of Plymouth County and the New England Police  
824 Benevolent Association (NEPBA), Local 580 (BCI), Unit SP3, effective from July 1, 2024  
825 through June 30, 2027;

826 (6) the agreement between the Sheriff of Norfolk County and the National Association of  
827 Government Employees, RI Local 202, Unit SN1, effective from July 1, 2024 through June 30,  
828 2027;

829 (7) the agreement between the Sheriff of Norfolk County and the County Correctional  
830 Officers Association, NEPBA Local 570, Unit SN3, effective from July 1, 2024 through June 30,  
831 2027;

832 (8) the agreement between the Board of Higher Education and the Association of  
833 Professional Administrators, MTA/NEA, Unit APA, effective from July 1, 2024 through June  
834 30, 2027;

835 (9) the agreement between the Sheriff of Norfolk County and the County Correctional  
836 Officers Association, NEPBA Local 575, Unit SN2, effective from July 1, 2024 through June 30,  
837 2027;

838 (10) the agreement between the Sheriff of Hampshire County and the Hampshire  
839 Sheriff's Office Treatment Association (SOTA), Unit SH6, effective from July 1, 2024 through  
840 June 30, 2027;

841 (11) the agreement between the Sheriff of Hampshire County and the Hampshire Jail and  
842 House of Correction Supervisory Correctional Officers, Unit SH8, effective from July 1, 2024  
843 through June 30, 2027;

844 (12) the agreement between the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and the New England  
845 Police Benevolent Association, Unit 4A, effective from July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2027;

846 (13) the agreement between the Sheriff of Barnstable County and NAGE-IBCO, Local  
847 217, Unit S3B, effective from July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2027;

848 (14) the agreement between the University of Massachusetts and The American  
849 Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees, Council 93, Local 1776, AFL-CIO, Unit  
850 A01, effective from July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2027;

851 (15) the agreement between the University of Massachusetts and the American  
852 Federation of State and County and Municipal Employees, Local 507/Council 93, AFL-CIO,  
853 Unit D82, effective from July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2027;

854 (16) the agreement between the University of Massachusetts and the New England Police  
855 Benevolent Local 290, Unit B33, effective from July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2027;

856 (17) the agreement between the University of Massachusetts and the New England Police  
857 Benevolent Local 285, Unit B3S, effective from July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2027;

858 (18) the agreement between the Sheriff of Hampshire County and the Non-Uniform  
859 Correctional Association, Unit SH7, effective from July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2027;

860 (19) the agreement between the University of Massachusetts and the Massachusetts  
861 Society of Professors, MTA/NEA, Unit A50, effective from July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2027;

862 (20) the agreement between the University of Massachusetts and the Faculty Staff Union,  
863 Unit B40, effective from July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2027;

864 (21) the agreement between the Sheriff of Barnstable County and the National  
865 Correctional Employees Union, Local 122, Unit S9B, effective from July 1, 2024 through June  
866 30, 2027;

867 (22) the agreement between the Sheriff of Hampden County and the National  
868 Correctional Employees Union, Local 131, Unit SH1, effective from July 1, 2024 through June  
869 30, 2027;

870 (23) the agreement between the Sheriff of Barnstable County and NAGE-Administrative  
871 Office Workers, Local 220, Unit S5B, effective from July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2027;

872 (24) the agreement between the Sheriff of Worcester County and the New England Police  
873 Benevolent Association, Local 550, Unit SW6, effective from July 1, 2025 through June 30,  
874 2028;

875 (25) the agreement between the Sheriff of Middlesex County and the National  
876 Correctional Employees Union, Local 116, Unit SM6, effective from July 1, 2024 through June  
877 30, 2027;

878 (26) the agreement between the University of Massachusetts and the Classified Staff  
879 Union, Units B31 and B32, effective from July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2027;

880 (27) the agreement between the University of Massachusetts and The Professional Staff  
881 Union/Massachusetts Teachers Association/NEA Unit B (Non-Exempt Supervisory Unit), Unit  
882 A15, effective from July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2027;

883 (28) the agreement between the University of Massachusetts and the University Staff  
884 Association/MTA/NEA, Unit A08, effective from July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2027;

885 (29) the agreement between the Sheriff of Hampshire County and the National  
886 Correctional Employee Union (NCEU), Unit SH5, effective from July 1, 2024 through June 30,  
887 2027; and

888 (30) the agreement between the University of Massachusetts and the Massachusetts  
889 Society of Professors / UMass Lowell, MTA/NEA (“MSP”), Unit L90, effective from July 1,  
890 2024 through June 30, 2027.

891 SECTION 102. Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, the  
892 comptroller shall transfer all funds currently in the inspector general expendable trust to the  
893 Office of the Inspector General Recovery Fund established in section 2LLLLLL of chapter 29 of  
894 the General Laws not later than 90 days from the effective date of this act.

895           SECTION 103. The department of elementary and secondary education and the board of  
896 education shall update regulations, as necessary, consistent with sections 25, and 27 to 31,  
897 inclusive.

898           SECTION 104. Section 49 shall take effect on August 1, 2025.

899           SECTION 105. Section 50 shall take effect on August 1, 2026.