HOUSE 5700: **AN ACT MAKING APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2026 TO PROVIDE FOR SUPPLEMENTING CERTAIN EXISTING APPROPRIATIONS AND FOR CERTAIN OTHER ACTIVITIES AND PROJECTS**

(summary reflects text as redrafted)

SPONSORS: House Committee on Ways and Means

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY:

10/21/26	H5699, published as amended Passed to be engrossed - 152 YEAS to 0 NAYS (See YEA and NAY No. 275)
10/26/26	Read; and referred to the Committee on Senate Ways and Means

EXISTING LAWS AFFECTED: M.G.L. c. 6C § 2; c. 7; c. 7C §§ 1, 5, 9, 29, 46, 51, 54 & 59; c. 9 § 32; c. 10 §§ 35 & 78; c. 15D § 7; c. 23 § 27; c. 23J § 9A; c. 23K §§ 59 & 63; c. 25A § 11C; c. 30 §§ 39M & 39R; c. 30B §§ 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 6A, 7, 15, 17 & 22; c. 32 §§ 7 & 16; c. 62C § 90; c. 63 § 1; c. 93; c. 94G § 4; c. 94I §§ 1 & 2; c. 111 §§ 72W, 72W½ & 245; c. 112; c. 118E § 10AA; c. 138 §§ 12E & 14A; c. 149 §§ 29, 44A, 44A½, 44F & 105E; c. 152 § 25A; c. 161A § 3; c. 175M § 7; c. 183A § 10; Chapter 731 of the Acts of 1945; Chapter 210 of the Acts of 1946; Chapter 581 of the Acts of 1946; Chapter 440 of the Acts of 1953; Chapter 646 of the Acts of 1968; Chapter 325 of the Acts of 1969; Chapter 130 of the Acts of 2005; Chapter 10 of the Acts of 2015; Chapter 260 of the Acts of 2020; Chapter 76 of the Acts of 2021; Chapter 183 of the Acts of 2022; Chapter 140 of the Acts of 2024; Chapter 7 of the Acts of 2025; Chapter 9 of the Acts of 2025; Chapter 14 of the Acts of 2025; Chapter 101 of the Acts of 2026; and Chapter 137 of the Acts of 2026.

PROPOSED LEGISLATION:

- Appropriates $2.48B, including:
  - $655K for the Suffolk District Attorney's Office
  - $225K for Northwestern District
  - $22.5M for a transfer to the No Cost Call Trust Fund
  - $725K for Marijuana Social Equity Municipal Payments
  - $731K for Chapter 40S Education Payments
  - $134.6M for fiscal year 2026 costs incurred by the 14 county sheriffs' offices
  - $2.5M for the Veterans' Home in Holyoke
  - $230K for DCR Seasonals
  - $855K for State Parks and Recreation
  - $300K for Streetlighting
  - $1.80B for MassHealth
  - $7.4 for SNAP Error Rate Enhancements
  - $14.1M for Bureau of Substance Addiction Services

- $9.8M for Public Health Hospitals
- $2M for Maternal and Child Health
- $250K for Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services
- $20K for the Joint Labor Management Committee for Municipal Police and Fire
- $8.2M for the Operation of Homeless Programs
- $2M for Low Income Housing Tax Credit Retained Revenue
- $500K for the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education
- $1.1M for the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner
- $3M for Troop H
- $5.4M for the Department of State Police
- $2.9M for the State Police Crime Laboratory
- $2.1M for the Military Division
- $2.5M for National Guard Tuition and Fee Waivers
- $9.5M for the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency
- $27.7M for the Department of Correction Facility Operations
- $1.8M for technology costs related to the implementation of Massachusetts Criminal Procedure Rule 14
- $13.8M for the Massachusetts Office of Victim Assistance victim services
- $6.0M for a reserve to support the implementation of chapter 65 of the acts of 2026
- $2M for a reserve to support public safety in the commonwealth
- $79.0M for interest payments in accordance with the settlement agreement entered into by the commonwealth and the United States Department of Labor on January 17, 2025
- $110.2M for fiscal year 2025 costs incurred by the 14 county sheriffs' offices
- $18.5M for a reserve to increase reimbursement rates for subsidized early education providers
- $10M for the Boston Holocaust Museum
- $2M for a transfer to the Fair Housing Fund
- $159.8M for snow and ice costs incurred by the Massachusetts Department of Transportation and Department of Conservation and Recreation

- Authorizes governmental bodies to procure broadband internet service in a single procurement including design and installation of equipment.

- Increases the monetary thresholds for study and delegation requirements in procurement for the Division of Capital Asset Management and Maintenance.

- Updates recordkeeping requirements and procurement procedures for municipal procurements and property disposals.

- Allows an employer to report workplace demographic and pay data, for the purposes of pay transparency compliance, in a format approved by the Executive Office of Workforce and Labor Development.

- Expands eligibility for enhanced public safety worker violent act disability pension benefits to correctional officers and correctional program officers.

- Clarifies that online lottery revenue may be directed to the Early Education and Care Operational Grant Fund.

- Modernizes Veteran's Bonus payment structure and updates the domicile requirement for Veteran's Bonus payments.

- Requires Department of Early Education and Care licensing background checks to include review of information contained in the Commission for the Protection of Persons with Disabilities' registry of abusive care providers.

- Expands the uses of the Massachusetts Offshore Wind Industry Trust Fund and transfers $35 million in fiscal years 2026 and 2027 to the fund.

- Authorizes the appointment of additional members to the Contributory Retirement Appeals Board if needed to clear a backlog of appeals.

- Extends previously enacted federal-decoupling provisions for individual and business taxpayers to include financial institutions.

- Requires sellers of subscription products to provide a simple cancellation mechanism in the same medium used to initially subscribe to the product.

- Allows the Cannabis Control Commission to issue medical marijuana cards to veterans who gets care at a federal VA facility, without requiring other certification from a healthcare professional.

- Clarifies that a prescribing health care provider providing HIV prevention drugs without cost sharing and prior authorization must be registered with the Division of Insurance.

- Expands eligibility for temporary charitable event and auction on-premises alcohol consumption licenses to include events held at farmer breweries, wineries and distilleries.

- Requires common carriers to file monthly reports with the Alcoholic Beverages Control Commission identifying shipments of alcohol to consumers that originate from out of state.

- Makes several updates to self-insurer regulations including raising minimum bond deposit amounts from $20,000 to $100,000, requiring surety companies to be rated A or higher, and codifying the process for reinsurance coverage when a bond is activated.

- Reduces the required reserve level for the Paid Family and Medical Leave trust fund from 140% to 120% of the prior fiscal year's expenditures.

- Extends authorization to convene a statewide grand jury to 2032.

- Delays the implementation of the Massachusetts Patient First Act from 2027 to 2029.

- Extends the reporting date for the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education's study on municipality's target local contribution and required local contribution from June 30, 2026 to January 31, 2027.

- Updates the parcels of land the Commissioner of Capital Asset Management and Maintenance may transfer to the to the Department of Agriculture in the town of Templeton.

- Extends the reporting deadline for the commission to study current law and practice on the collection of delinquent property tax revenue to December 31, 2028.

- Allows condominium developers and purchasers to agree to use up to 90% of pre-construction deposits for construction costs, conditioned on escrow account requirements and financial guarantees by the developer.

- Permits the Department of Public Health, without a prior hearing, to suspend or refuse to renew the certification of a nurses' aide or a certified medication aide who poses an immediate and serious threat to public health, safety or welfare.

- Amends existing statute requiring disclosure and eventual sales ban of firefighting personal protective equipment containing PFAS, to permit sale of auxiliary firefighting personal protective equipment containing PFAS until January 1, 2032.

- Exempts additional Massachusetts tax filers from interest or penalties resulting from legislation postponing certain provisions of the federal Big Beautiful Bill.

- Adds the collective bargaining reserve to the fiscal year 2027 general appropriations act

- Adds $52,000,0000 in payments to nursing facilities to the fiscal year 2027 general appropriations act.

- Increases the appropriation for the Caseworkers Reserve in the fiscal year 2027 general appropriations act.

- Establishes 4 new line items in the fiscal year 2027 general appropriations act for the delivery of pre-release healthcare services at 4 county sheriff's offices

- Increases the transfer to the Medical Assistance Trust Fund and the transfer to the Cambridge Health Alliance in the fiscal year 2027 general appropriations act.

- Authorizes transferability between certain line items in the general appropriations act

- Authorizes a municipality to amortize over 3 fiscal years the amount of its deficit related to COVID-19.

- Retains net revenue from sales of abandoned property for fiscal year 2026 in the General Fund.

- Authorizes the Comptroller to make technical corrections to expenditures that occurred on certain items in the fiscal year 2026 general appropriations act.

- Transfers $10,000,000 from the General Fund to the Massachusetts Life Sciences Center.

- Prohibits a sheriff's office from spending or obligating funding that is greater than said sheriff's actual spending in fiscal year 2026 if said amount of spending exceeds the amount appropriated for said sheriff's office.

- Authorizes the Secretary of Administration and Finance to establish a statutory receivable in fiscal year 2026.

- Transfers the fiscal year 2026 consolidated net surplus to the Transitional Escrow Fund.

- Amends the distribution of excess capital gains collections in fiscal year 2026.

- Suspends the application of the annual Fair Share spending threshold for fiscal year 2028.

- Authorizes the transfer of interest attributable to the Commonwealth Stabilization Fund to the Commonwealth Federal Matching and Debt Reduction Fund in fiscal year 2026.

- Authorizes the Massachusetts Technology Park Corporation to conduct improvements and construction on certain real property where the cost is estimated to be less than $2,250,000.

- Authorizes the Commissioner of Capital Asset Management and Maintenance to transfer the care and control of certain land in the city of Brockton to the Executive Office of Labor and Workforce Development.

- Authorizes the transfer of up to $250,000,000 from the Education and Transportation Fund to the Student Opportunity Act Investment Fund.

- Authorizes the transfer of up to $50,000,000 from the Education and Transportation Fund to the Early Education and Care Operational Grant Fund.

- Authorizes the transfer of interest earnings attributable to the Education and Transportation Fund, the Education and Transportation Innovation and Capital Fund and the Education and Transportation Reserve Fund to the Student Opportunity Act Investment Fund.

- Ratifies several collective bargaining agreements.

- Allows several fiscal year 2026 appropriations to be expended into fiscal year 2027.

ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT:

This legislation makes $2,476,841,267 in direct fiscal year 2026 appropriations with a net cost to the commonwealth of $1,704,997,592. This legislation also adds $84,580,989 in net new spending to the fiscal year 2027 general appropriations act.

(AHC)