

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

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**JOURNAL OF THE HOUSE.**



**MONDAY, APRIL 27, 2026.**

[40]\*

# JOURNAL OF THE HOUSE.

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Monday, April 27, 2026.

Met according to adjournment at eleven o'clock A.M. with Mr. Donato of Medford in the Chair (having been appointed by the Speaker, under authority conferred by Rule 5, to perform the duties of the Chair).

At the request of the Chair (Mr. Donato), the members, guests and employees joined with him in reciting the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

Pledge of  
allegiance.

### *Silent Tribute.*

During the session (Ms. Hogan of Stow being in the Chair), at the request of Representatives Soter of Bellingham and McKenna of Sutton, the members, guests and employees stood in a moment of silent tribute in respect to the memory of Officer Stephen A. LaPorta of Uxbridge, who passed away tragically on January 7, 2026, at the age of 43 in the line of duty.

Stephen  
LaPorta.

Stephen LaPorta's law enforcement career began as a dispatcher and part-time police officer in Mendon and he later served in Uxbridge and Millville. In 2024, Stephen fulfilled his lifelong dream of becoming a full-time police officer, proudly serving Uxbridge as Badge #31.

Stephen's devotion to public service was matched only by his devotion to his family. He was the beloved husband of Shannon (Carney) LaPorta for 17 years and the devoted father of Matthew LaPorta of Uxbridge. He was the cherished son of Andrew and Katina (Sangermano) LaPorta of Franklin, and the loving son-in-law of Christopher and Donna Carney of Millbury. Stephen is remembered and mourned by many loving relatives, close friends, and countless colleagues who admired his kindness, loyalty, and selfless spirit.

Stephen was a dedicated fan of the Bruins, Patriots, and Red Sox, and found joy in music as a devoted Kenny Chesney fan. His passions reflected his warm and vibrant spirit and his appreciation for the simple, meaningful moments in life.

Our thoughts are with his family, friends, and colleagues as they mourn his passing and continue to honor his legacy of dedication, compassion, and service.

### *Remote Participation.*

Under the provisions of House Rule 49, Representatives Ferguson of Holden, Galvin of Canton, Gentile of Sudbury and Kearney of Scituate participated remotely for today's formal session.

Remote  
participation.

### *Resolutions.*

The following resolutions (filed with the Clerk) were referred, under Rule 85, to the committee on Rules:

**UNCORRECTED PROOF.**

Resolutions (filed by Representative Hogan of Stow) congratulating Scott Duplisea for his thirty plus years of dedicated service to the town of Hudson;

Scott  
Duplisea.

Resolutions (filed by Representative Badger of Plymouth and other members of the House) commending the Celiac Disease Foundation for its recognition of May 2026 as Celiac Disease Awareness Month and May 16, 2026 as International Celiac Disease Awareness Day;

Celiac  
Disease  
Foundation.

Resolutions (filed by Representative Domb of Amherst and other members of the House) recognizing the National Multiple Sclerosis Society on Society State Action Day in Massachusetts; and

National  
Multiple  
Sclerosis Society.

Resolutions (filed by Representative Garcia of Chelsea and other members of the House) recognizing the ALS Association in honoring Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis Awareness in May 2026;

ALS  
Association.

Mr. Galvin of Canton, for the committee on Rules, reported, in each instance, that the resolutions ought to be adopted. Under suspension of the rules, in each instance, on motion of Ms. Hogan of Stow, the resolutions (reported by the committee on Bills in the Third Reading to be correctly drawn) were considered forthwith; and they were adopted.

*Papers from the Senate.*

The House Bill providing for the appointment of retired police officers as special police officers in the town of Fairhaven (House, No. 4234, amended), came from the Senate passed to be engrossed, in concurrence, with an amendment in section 1, in line 15, striking out the words “performing police details” and inserting in place thereof the words “appointment under this act”. The amendment was referred, under Rule 35, to the committee on Bills in the Third Reading.

Fairhaven,—  
special  
police.

A Bill to build resilience for Massachusetts communities (Senate, No. 3064) (on Senate bill No. 3050), passed to be engrossed by the Senate, was read; and it was referred, under Rule 33, to the committee on Ways and Means.

Farmers  
fund.

*Engrossed Bill.*

The engrossed Bill increasing the membership of the Haverhill board of health from 3 members to 5 members (see House, No. 4057) (which originated in the House), having been certified by the Clerk to be rightly and truly prepared for final passage, was passed to be enacted; and it was signed by the acting Speaker and sent to the Senate.

Bill  
enacted.

*Orders of the Day.*

House bills

Further defining a quorum of the Worcester Regional Retirement System Board Advisory Council (House, No. 2926);

Third  
reading  
bills.

To clarify the organization of the Lexington Housing Assistance Board (House, No. 4842); and

Providing for the exchange of certain park land in the town of Lexington (House, No. 4843);

Severally reported by the committee on Bills in the Third Reading to be correctly drawn, were read a third time; and they were passed to be engrossed. Severally sent to the Senate for concurrence.

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The House Bill naming “The Bill Russell and Bob Cousy Highway” (House, No. 3727), reported by the committee on Bills in the Third Reading to be correctly drawn, was read a third time.

Turnpike,—  
naming.

Pending the question on passing the bill to be engrossed, Mr. Walsh of Peabody moved to amend it by substitution of a bill with the same title (House, No. 5390), which was read.

The amendment was adopted; and the substituted bill was passed to be engrossed. Sent to the Senate for concurrence.

Ms. Hogan of Stow being in the Chair,—

The House Bill making appropriations for the fiscal year 2027 for the maintenance of the departments, boards, commissions, institutions, and certain activities of the Commonwealth, for interest, sinking fund, and serial bond requirements, and for certain permanent improvements (House, No. 5500), was considered, the main question being on ordering the bill to a third reading.

General  
Appropriation  
Bill.

After debate on the question on ordering the bill to a third reading, Representative Lombardo of Billerica and other members of the House moved to amend it by adding the following two sections:

“SECTION 77. (a)Section 2 of Chapter 64H of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2022 Official Edition, is hereby amended by striking ‘6.25 per cent’ and replacing it with ‘5 per cent’.

(b)SECTION 2. Section 2 of Chapter 64I of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2022 Official Edition, is hereby amended by striking ‘6.25 per cent’ and replacing it with ‘5 per cent’.”

After debate on the question on adoption of the amendment, the sense of the House was taken by yeas and nays, at the request of the same member; and on the roll call 25 members voted in the affirmative and 131 in the negative.

Amendment  
rejected,—  
yea and nay  
No. 158.

[See [Yea and Nay No. 158](#) in Supplement.]

Therefore the amendment was rejected.

Representative Lombardo and other members of the House then moved to amend the bill by adding the following section:

“SECTION 77. (a)Section 4 of said chapter 62 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2022 Official Edition, is hereby amended by striking out subsection (b) and inserting in place thereof the following subsection:

(b) Part B taxable income shall be taxed at the rate of 4.0 percent.

(b) Subsection (a) of this act shall be effective beginning July 1, 2026.”

After debate on the question on adoption of the amendment, the sense of the House was taken by yeas and nays, at the request of the same member; and on the roll call 25 members voted in the affirmative and 132 in the negative.

Amendment  
rejected,—  
yea and nay  
No. 159.

[See [Yea and Nay No. 159](#) in Supplement.]

Therefore the amendment was rejected.

Representative Lombardo and other members of the House then moved to amend the bill by adding the following two sections:

“SECTION 77. Section 1 of chapter 62 of the General Laws, as most recently amended by section 100 of chapter 140 of the acts of 2024, is hereby further amended by adding the following paragraph:

(s) ‘Overtime wage’, wages paid to an hourly employee for working in excess of 40 hours per week; provided, that wages earned by salaried employees shall not constitute overtime wage.

SECTION 78. Paragraph (b) of part B of section 3 of said chapter 62, as appearing in the 2022 Official Edition, is hereby amended by adding the following subparagraph:

(6) An amount equal to the overtime wages earned by the taxpayer within the taxable year.”.

After debate on the question on adoption of the amendment, the sense of the House was taken by yeas and nays, at the request of the same member; and on the roll call 25 members voted in the affirmative and 132 in the negative.

**[See [Yea and Nay No. 160](#) in Supplement.]**

Therefore the amendment was rejected.

Representative Boldyga of Southwick and other members of the House then moved to amend the bill by adding the following section:

“SECTION 77. Notwithstanding any special or general law to the contrary, for taxable years beginning on January 1, 2027, an amount not to exceed \$12,500 of income received by a taxpayer during the taxable year as compensation for overtime work shall be excluded from Massachusetts gross income, as defined in chapter 62 of the General Laws.

For purposes of this section, ‘overtime work’ shall mean hours worked in excess of 40 hours in a workweek, or such other threshold as may be established under applicable provisions of the Internal Revenue Code, the Fair Labor Standards Act, or other federal or state law, for which compensation is paid at a rate greater than the employee’s regular rate of pay.

In the case of a married couple filing a joint return, each spouse shall be entitled to a separate exclusion under this section, provided that each spouse has qualifying overtime income.

The commissioner of revenue shall promulgate such rules and regulations as are necessary to implement this section, including provisions to ensure proper reporting and to prevent abuse or mischaracterization of income as overtime compensation.”.

After debate on the question on adoption of the amendment, the sense of the House was taken by yeas and nays, at the request of the same member; and on the roll call 25 members voted in the affirmative and 132 in the negative.

**[See [Yea and Nay No. 161](#) in Supplement.]**

Therefore the amendment was rejected.

Representative Boldyga and other members of the House then moved to amend the bill by adding the following section:

“SECTION 77. Notwithstanding any special or general law to the contrary, the excise imposed upon the sale of gasoline under chapter 64A of the General Laws shall be suspended beginning upon passage of this bill and shall remain suspended until such time as the average retail price per gallon of regular gasoline in the commonwealth falls below \$2.50.

For purposes of this section, the ‘average retail price per gallon of regular gasoline’ shall be determined on a weekly basis by the commissioner of energy resources, or such other state agency as the secretary of energy and environmental affairs may designate, using widely recognized and publicly available data sources.

Amendment  
rejected,—  
yea and nay  
No. 160.

Amendment  
rejected,—  
yea and nay  
No. 161.

Upon a determination that the average retail price per gallon of regular gasoline has fallen below \$2.50, the commissioner of revenue shall certify the same and the excise imposed under said chapter 64A shall be reinstated on the first day of the first calendar month following such certification.

The commissioner of revenue and the commissioner of energy resources shall promulgate such rules and regulations as are necessary to implement this section.”.

After debate on the question on adoption of the amendment, the sense of the House was taken by yeas and nays, at the request of the same member; and on the roll call 25 members voted in the affirmative and 132 in the negative.

[See [Yea and Nay No. 162](#) in Supplement.]

Therefore the amendment was rejected.

Representative Boldyga and other members of the House then moved to amend the bill by adding the following section:

“SECTION 77. Notwithstanding any special or general laws to the contrary, Section 2 of Chapter 64H of the General Laws, is hereby amended by striking out ‘6.25 per cent’ and replacing it with ‘5 per cent’.

subsection a. This section shall take effect January 1, 2027.”.

Ms. Peisch of Wellesley thereupon raised a point of order that the amendment offered by the gentleman from Southwick is improperly before the House for the reason that the subject matter has already been raised and voted upon.

In answer to the point of order, the Chair (Ms. Hogan of Stow) stated that since the House has already refused to adopt an amendment to reduce the sales tax to 5%, the amendment offered by the gentleman from Southwick is improperly before the House for the reason that the subject matter has already been raised and voted upon.

Therefore the Chair ruled that the point of order was well taken; and the amendment was laid aside accordingly.

Representative Boldyga of Southwick and other members of the House moved to amend the bill by adding the following section:

“SECTION 77. Notwithstanding any special or general law to the contrary, for taxable years beginning on January 1, 2027, an amount not to exceed \$25,000 of income received by a taxpayer during the taxable year in the form of tips or gratuities shall be excluded from Massachusetts gross income, as defined in chapter 62 of the General Laws.

For purposes of this section, ‘tips’ or ‘gratuities’ shall mean voluntary cash or non-cash amounts received by an employee from a customer or patron, whether received directly or distributed through an employer, consistent with the definition of tips under applicable provisions of the Internal Revenue Code and federal regulations.

In the case of a married couple filing a joint return, each spouse shall be entitled to a separate exclusion under this section, provided that each spouse has qualifying tip income.

The commissioner of revenue shall promulgate such rules and regulations as are necessary to implement this section, including provisions to prevent abuse or improper characterization of income as tips.”.

After debate on the question on adoption of the amendment, the sense of the House was taken by yeas and nays, at the request of the same member; and on the roll call 25 members voted in the affirmative and 131 in the negative.

[See [Yea and Nay No. 163](#) in Supplement.]

Therefore the amendment was rejected.

Representative Boldyga and other members of the House then moved to amend the bill by adding the following section:

Amendment  
rejected,—  
yea and nay  
No. 162.

Point of  
Order.

Amendment  
rejected,—  
yea and nay  
No. 163.

“SECTION 77. Notwithstanding any special or general law to the contrary, for taxable years beginning on January 1, 2027, any income received by a taxpayer who has attained the age of 69 and one-half years during the taxable year, derived from distributions from a qualified retirement plan pursuant to section 401(k) of the Internal Revenue Code, shall be excluded from Massachusetts gross income, as defined in chapter 62 of the General Laws.

For purposes of this section, ‘qualified retirement plan’ shall have the same meaning as set forth in the Internal Revenue Code, as amended and in effect for the applicable taxable year.

The commissioner of revenue shall promulgate such rules and regulations as are necessary to implement this section.”.

After debate on the question on adoption of the amendment, the sense of the House was taken by yeas and nays, at the request of Representative Boldyga of Southwick; and on the roll call 25 members voted in the affirmative and 132 in the negative.

Amendment  
rejected,—  
yea and nay  
No. 164.

**[See [Yea and Nay No. 164](#) in Supplement.]**

Therefore the amendment was rejected.

Representatives Jones of North Reading and other members of the House then moved to amend the bill by adding the following 12 sections:

“SECTION 77. Subsection (p) of section 6 of chapter 62 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2024 Official Edition, is hereby amended by inserting after the word ‘amended’, in line 769, the following words: , or a private nonprofit trust established pursuant to chapter 203 organized for the purposes of land conservation, which is authorized to do business in the commonwealth, and which has tax-exempt status as a nonprofit charitable organization as described in section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended.

SECTION 78. Said subsection (p) of said section 6 of said chapter 62, as so appearing, is hereby amended by striking out, in line 835, the figure ‘\$2,000,000’ and inserting in place thereof the following figure: \$3,000,000.

SECTION 79. Said subsection (p) of said section 6 of said chapter 62, as so appearing, is hereby amended by striking out, in line 835, the figure ‘\$3,000,000’ and inserting in place thereof the following figure: \$4,000,000.

SECTION 80. Said subsection (p) of said section 6 of said chapter 62, as so appearing, is hereby amended by striking out, in line 835, the figure ‘\$4,000,000’ and inserting in place thereof the following figure: \$5,000,000.

SECTION 81. Section 38AA of chapter 63, as so appearing, is hereby amended by inserting after the word ‘amended’, in line 29, the following words: - , or a private nonprofit trust established pursuant to chapter 203 organized for the purposes of land conservation, which is authorized to do business in the commonwealth, and which has tax-exempt status as a nonprofit charitable organization as described in section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended.

SECTION 82. Said section 38AA of said chapter 63, as so appearing, is hereby amended by striking out, in line 88, the figure ‘\$2,000,000’ and inserting in place thereof the following figure: \$3,000,000.

SECTION 83. Said section 38AA of said chapter 63, as so appearing, is hereby amended by striking out, in line 88, the figure ‘\$3,000,000’ and inserting in place thereof the following figure: \$4,000,000.

SECTION 84. Said section 38AA of said chapter 63, as so appearing, is hereby amended by striking out, in line 88, the figure ‘\$4,000,000.’ and inserting in place thereof the following figure: ‘\$5,000,000’

SECTION 85. Sections 78 and 82 shall take effect on January 1, 2027.

**UNCORRECTED PROOF.**

SECTION 86. Sections 79 and 83 shall take effect on January 1, 2028.

SECTION 87. Sections 80 and 84 shall take effect on January 1, 2029.;

SECTION 88. Sections 78, 79, 80, 82, 83 and 84 of this act shall expire on December 31, 2037.”.

After debate on the question on adoption of the amendment, the sense of the House was taken by yeas and nays, at the request of the same member; and on the roll call 30 members voted in the affirmative and 124 in the negative.

[See [Yea and Nay No. 165](#) in Supplement.]

Therefore the amendment was rejected.

Representatives Jones and other members of the House then moved to amend the bill by adding the following section:

“SECTION 77. (a) The terms used in this section shall have the following meanings unless the context clearly requires otherwise:

‘Amnesty period’, a period of time commencing for 2 consecutive months and not earlier than the date a local legislative body establishes a municipal tax amnesty program according to this act and expiring not later than June 30, 2029, as the local legislative body might determine, during which the municipal tax amnesty program established by the local legislative body shall be in effect in that city or town.

‘Collector’, a person receiving a tax list and a warrant to collect the same.

‘Covered amount’, the aggregate of all penalties, fees, charges and accrued interest assessed by the collector or treasurer for the failure of a certain taxpayer to timely pay a subject liability; provided, however, that the covered amount shall not include the subject liability itself or any fees and charges authorized or incurred for the collection of a past due subject liability for which notice has been issued; and provided further, that nothing in this section shall authorize the waiver of penalties, fees, charges and accrued interest resulting from the violation of any law, municipal by-law or ordinance.

‘Municipal tax amnesty program’, a temporary policy by a city or town to forever waive its right to collect all or any uniform proportion of the covered amount, as determined by the local legislative body, then due from any person who, prior to the expiration of the amnesty period, voluntarily pays the collector or treasurer the full amount of the subject liability that serves as the basis for the covered amount; provided, however, that a municipal tax amnesty program shall not include a policy that enables or requires a city or town to waive its right to collect the covered amount from a person who, at the time of commencement of the amnesty period is or was the subject of a criminal investigation or prosecution for failure to pay the city or town any subject liability or covered amount.

‘Subject liability’, the principal amount of a particular tax or excise liability payable by a taxpayer under chapter 59, 60, 60A or 60B of the General Laws, as determined by the local legislative body.

‘Treasurer’, as described in chapter 41 of the General Laws.

(b) Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, the local legislative body in any city or town may vote to establish a municipal tax amnesty program according to the provisions of this section and shall, at the same time as such vote, determine the amnesty period. Tax amnesty periods shall not extend beyond June 30, 2029. The commissioner of revenue may issue such guidelines as he deems appropriate to carry out this section.”

After debate on the question on adoption of the amendment, the sense of the House was taken by yeas and nays, at the request of the same member; and on the roll call (Mr. Donato of Medford being in the Chair) 27 members voted in the affirmative and 129 in the negative.

Amendment  
rejected,—  
yea and nay  
No. 165.

Amendment  
rejected,—  
yea and nay  
No. 166.

[See [Yea and Nay No. 166](#) in Supplement.]

Therefore the amendment was rejected.

Representatives Jones and other members of the House the moved to amend the bill by adding the following 3 sections:

“SECTION 77. Chapter 59 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2024 Official Edition, is hereby amended by inserting after section 21C the following section:

Section 21C½. Notwithstanding section 21C or any other general or special law to the contrary, a city or town may, upon approval of the voters, implement an override over a multi-year period not to exceed 5 years.

(b) Any municipality proposing a multi-year override as permitted by this section shall include on the ballot question:

- (i) the total cost of the override; and
- (ii) the implementation schedule.

(c) The department of revenue, through its division of local services, shall issue guidance to municipalities regarding implementation of this section.

(d) This section shall take effect immediately upon passage.

SECTION 78. Section 77 is hereby repealed.

SECTION 79. Section 78 shall take effect on January 1, 2031.”.

The amendment was rejected.

The bill (House, No. 5500) was ordered to a third reading.

At four minutes after two o’clock P.M., on motion of Mr. Jones of North Reading (Mr. Donato of Medford being in the Chair), the House recessed subject to the call of the Chair; and at eight minutes after four o’clock, the House was called to order with Mr. Donato in the Chair.

Recess.

Under suspension of the rules, on motion of Mr. Michlewitz of Boston, the bill (having been reported by the committee on Bills in the Third Reading to be correctly drawn) was read a third time.

Pending the question on passing the bill to be engrossed, Mr. Michlewitz of Boston and other members of the House moved to amend it in section 2, in item 0930-0100, in line 9, by inserting after the word “adulthood” the following: “; provided further that not less than \$250,000 shall be expended for a hospital-based, comprehensive child protection program at UMass Memorial Medical Center”; and in said item by striking out the figures: “4,188,835” and inserting in place thereof the figures: “4,438,835”;

Consolidated amendments (education and local aid, and social services and veterans).

In item 1410-0012, in line 11, by inserting after the words “Program” the following: “; provided further, that not less than \$10,000 shall be expended to The Veteran’s Kitchen of Fall River, Inc.; provided further, that not less than \$10,000 shall be expended to the South Attleboro Lions Club, Inc. for costs associated with their wheelchair ramp project; provided further, that not less than \$25,000 shall be expended to The Cape and Islands Veterans Outreach Center, Inc. for the purpose of communications and systems upgrades; provided further, that not less than \$350,000 shall be expended to the New England Brain Sciences Institute, Inc. to deliver cutting-edge brain treatment to veterans and first responders; provided further, that not less than \$30,000 shall be expended to the Veterans Oral History Project in the town of Natick; provided further, that not less than \$10,000 shall be expended to VFW Post 1645 and American Legion Post 89 combined in the town of Stoughton; provided further, that not less than \$10,000 shall be expended to VFW Post 8892 in the town of Avon for building improvements; provided further, that not less than \$25,000 shall be expended to Springfield Veterans First (NABVET) Outreach Center; provided further, that not less than \$25,000 shall be expended for Project New Hope

**UNCORRECTED PROOF.**

Incorporated for initiatives related to veteran outreach, community engagement in the town of Leicester, and wellness programs; provided further, that not less than \$50,000 shall be expended to the Bilingual Veterans Outreach Centers of Massachusetts, Inc. in the city of Springfield for a city of Pittsfield caseworker; provided further, that not less than \$125,000 shall be expended to the Montachusett Veterans Outreach Center, Inc. for supportive housing programs and operational functions; provided further, that not less than \$50,000 shall be expended to the Abraham Lincoln Post 11 in the Charlestown section of the city of Boston for facility upgrades and maintenance; provided further, that not less than \$200,000 shall be expended to Brave for Veterans, Inc. to support research programs benefiting veterans in the commonwealth; provided further, that not less than \$25,000 shall be expended to New England Wounded Veterans, Inc. for the development of the East Boston Veterans Museum”; and in said item by striking out the figures: “9,332,339” and inserting in place thereof the figures: “10,527,339”;

In item 1410-0250 by adding the following: “; and provided further, that not less than \$175,000 shall be expended to Volunteers of America Massachusetts, Inc. for the development of an innovative transitional employment program for individuals in recovery from mental health and substance use disorder”; and in said item by striking out the figures: “3,942,952” and inserting in place thereof the figures: “4,117,952”;

In item 1410-1616 by adding the following: “; provided, that not less than \$100,000 shall be expended to the city of Worcester for the maintenance and care of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in the city of Worcester; and provided further, that not less than \$10,000 shall be expended for the North Adams Veterans Memorial Wall”; and in said item by striking out the figures: “100,000” and inserting in place thereof the figures: “110,000”;

In item 3000-1000, in line 36, by inserting after the word “requirements” the following: “; provided further, that not less than \$25,000 shall be expended to the Old Colony YMCA-Taunton Branch for the replacement of the basketball court”; and in said item by striking out the figures: “20,257,108” and inserting in place thereof the figures: “20,282,108”;

In item 3000-1020, in line 24, by inserting after the word “appropriation” the words: “; provided further that not less than \$10,000 shall be expended to the Nauset Youth Alliance in support of the Alliance’s childcare programming”; and in said item by striking out the figures: “48,165,758” and inserting in place thereof the figures: “48,175,758”;

In item 4003-0122, in line 6, by inserting after the word “States” the following: “; provided further, that not less than \$50,000 shall be expended to Casa Dominicana Inc. to assist in ESL classes and additional programming for low-income adults”; and in said item by striking out the figures: “1,311,246” and inserting in place thereof the figures: “1,361,246”;

In item 4003-0124, in line 3, by inserting after the word “program” the following: “; provided further, that not less than \$2,000,000 shall be expended to the Immigrant Family Services Institute, Inc. (IFSI-USA.INC.) for facilities, operations, programming, legal and mental health services at their offices including but not limited to Mattapan, Brockton, Everett, Worcester, Methuen and Lowell to support immigrants in Massachusetts”; and in said item by striking out the figures: “7,000,000” and inserting in place thereof the figures: “9,000,000”;

In item 4400-1000, in line 3, by inserting after the word “item” the following: “; provided further, that not less than \$100,000 shall be expended for the Bridge to Prosperity statewide cliff effect pilot program led by Springfield WORKS to support the continued implementation, evaluation and completion of a demonstration program

**UNCORRECTED PROOF.**

serving families across the commonwealth; provided further, that not less than \$75,000 shall be expended to Fresh Start Furniture Bank, Inc. for the continuation of wrap around services; provided further, that not less than \$200,000 shall be expended for Cradles to Crayons' Clothing Insecurity relief and essentials distribution service"; and in said item by striking out the figures: "108,760,521" and inserting in place thereof the figures: "109,135,521";

In item 4400-1004, in line 4, by inserting after the word "program" the following: "; provided further, that not less than \$25,000 shall be expended to the Allston-Brighton Food Pantry for a community refrigerator support program; provided further, that not less than \$25,000 shall be expended to the Dracut Food Pantry"; and in said item by striking out the figures: "20,000,000" and inserting in place thereof the figures: "20,050,000";

In item 4400-1020, in line 13, by inserting after the word "Inc.", the second time it appears, the following: "; provided further, that not less than \$50,000 shall be expended to the Main South Community Development Corporation for efforts to promote the safety and security of the University Park and Beacon Brightly neighborhoods"; and in said item by striking out the figures: "4,950,000" and inserting in place thereof the figures: "5,000,000";

In item 4800-0015, in line 178, by inserting after the year: "2027" the following: "; provided further, that not less than \$125,000 shall be expended to Rick's Place, Inc. of Wilbraham for providing grief support to youth and their families in the Pioneer Valley"; and in said item by striking out the figures: "156,448,247" and inserting in place thereof the figures: "156,573,247";

In item 4800-0030 by adding the following: "; provided, that not less than \$150,000 shall be expended to the Weymouth Teen Center for job skills training, technology support, remedial education services and to promote a social service program for growth and social welfare"; and in said item by striking out the figures: "19,174,028" and inserting in place thereof the figures: "19,324,028";

In item 4800-0038, in line 17, by inserting after the word "children" the following: "; provided further, that not less than \$100,000 shall be expended to the Jewish Family and Children's Service, Inc.'s Center for Early Relationship Support for the fragile beginnings program, project newborns exposed to substances: support and therapy and related clinical and community services for vulnerable families with children from birth to age 5"; and in said item by striking out the figures: "343,181,153" and inserting in place thereof the figures: "343,281,153";

In item 4800-0200 by adding the following: "; and provided further; that not less than \$100,000 shall be expended to the Eliot Family Resource Center in the city of Everett for the implementation of additional programming"; and in said item by striking out the figures: "25,714,017" and inserting in place thereof the figures: "25,814,017";

In item 7000-9401, in line 6, by inserting after the following: "815 C.M.R. 2.00" the following: "; provided further, that not less than \$50,000 shall be expended for the Worcester Public Library to provide funding and support staff for the Library in Every Classroom Project; provided further, that not less than \$100,000 shall be expended to the Tufts Library in Weymouth for material and equipment upgrades"; and in said item by striking out the figures: "19,380,000" and inserting in place thereof the figures: "19,530,000";

In item 7000-9501, in line 15, by inserting after the word "program" the following: "; and provided further, that not less than \$50,000 shall be expended to the town of Halifax for the replacement of the roof at the Holmes public library"; and in

**UNCORRECTED PROOF.**

said item by striking out the figures: “20,400,000” and inserting in place thereof the figures: “20,450,000”;

In item 7009-6600, in line 6, by inserting after the word “college” the following: “; provided further, that not less than \$175,000 shall be expended to Westfield State University, for early college programming for nursing and health science pathways to support labor force development with western Massachusetts hospitals and health care providers; provided further, that not less than \$25,000 shall be expended to the Cape Cod Maritime Museum, Inc. for the expansion of youth access to summer programming of Blue Economy History”; and in said item by striking out the figures: “15,000,000” and inserting in place thereof the figures: “15,200,000”;

In item 7010-0005, in line 10, by inserting after the word “law” the following: “; provided further, that not less than \$50,000 shall be expended to the town of Winchester for the implementation of literacy programming in the Winchester public school system”; and in said item by striking out the figures: “13,414,723” and inserting in place thereof the figures: “13,464,723”;

In item 7010-1192, in line 2, by inserting after the word “projects” the following: “; provided, that not less than \$75,000 shall be expended to Leominster public schools for the purpose of launching new adult and after hours educational vocational programming; provided further, that not less than \$70,000 shall be expended to Monson public schools, for the purchase of 280 chromebooks to sustain equitable access to instructional technology; provided further, that not less than \$50,000 shall be expended for the E-Team Machinist Program in the city of Lynn; provided further, that not less than \$25,000 shall be expended to the city of Chicopee for financial assistance and waivers for applications in youth sports programs; provided further, that not less than \$20,000 shall be expended for youth programs at Dennison Memorial Community Center, Inc. in New Bedford; provided further, that not less than \$150,000 shall be expended to the city of Boston for a study of the redevelopment and economically integrated housing at Jackson Mann community center complex in the Union Square section of Allston in the city of Boston; provided further, that not less than \$50,000 shall be expended for a grant to Collaborative for Educational Services, Inc. located in the city of Northampton for the trauma-informed Hampshire county initiative; provided further, that not less than \$10,000 shall be expended to the Kiwanis Club for the purpose of expanding assistance for local students pursuing higher education in Massachusetts; provided further, that not less than \$100,000 shall be expended to the city of Medford for Robotics 360 programming for elementary and high school students; provided further, that not less than \$50,000 shall be expended to the city of Medford for transportation to career technical education co-op programming for students in the city of Medford; provided further that not less than \$25,000 shall be expended to Easton public schools for programming with Raising Multicultural Kids; provided further, that not less than \$25,000 shall be expended to the Taunton Performing Arts Center for the purchase of their building; provided further, that not less than \$30,000 shall be expended to the town of Salisbury for repairs to the Salisbury elementary school playground; provided further, that not less than \$50,000 shall be expended to Third Sector New England, Inc. for the Commonwealth Seminar to support its civic education, training, and leadership program focused on underserved communities; provided further, that not less than \$100,000 shall be expended to the Coalition for Anti-Racism and Equity, Inc. and the Commonwealth Seminar for a joint fellowship program for high school and college students from underrepresented communities of color; provided further, that not less than \$25,000 shall be expended to Beyond Soccer, Inc. for innovative health, athletic and leadership programming for low-income youth in the city of

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Lawrence; provided further, that not less than \$25,000 shall be expended to Kinetic Smiles, Inc. to support youth cycling, fitness, and wellness programming for children in the city of Lawrence and surrounding communities; provided further, that not less than \$20,000 shall be expended to the Hill View Montessori Foundation, Inc. for a security system at Hill View Montessori Charter Public School; provided further, that not less than \$75,000 shall be expended to the city known as the town of North Attleborough for the construction of a new playground for the Community School; provided further, that not less than \$40,000 shall be expended to the town of Mansfield for renovation, repair and replacement of equipment at the Mansfield high school auditorium; provided further, that not less than \$5,000 shall be expended to Unique Steps Dance Academy in North Attleborough; provided further, that not less than \$100,000 shall be expended to the Dedham Education Foundation, Inc. to support their mission of student enrichment programs for Dedham public schools; ; provided further, that not less than \$25,000 shall be expended to Haverhill public schools for the renovation of the Haverhill high school weight room and related athletic activities; provided further, that not less than \$150,000 shall be expended to Braintree public schools for mental health services; provided further, that not less than \$100,000 shall be expended for the All Dorchester Sports League, Inc. for educational support, nutrition, and other community benefits; provided further, that not less than \$25,000 shall be expended to Asociación Carnavalesca de Massachusetts, Inc. in the city of Lawrence, to highlight the colorful tradition of Dominican Carnival in the Merrimack Valley and to provide at-risk youth with assistance programming and after school activities; provided further, that not less than \$25,000 shall be expended to Instituto Cultural de Puerto Rico, Inc. in the City of Lawrence, to highlight the colorful tradition of Puerto Rican culture in the Merrimack Valley; provided further, that not less than \$50,000 shall be expended to Ateneo Dominicano Del Merrimack Valley to maintain and promote Dominican culture throughout the Merrimack Valley through history, literature, arts, customs, and family values; provided further, that not less than \$25,000 shall be expended to the P2P Basketball Corp. for the costs of expanding their programming to serve youth in Salem; provided further, that not less than \$50,000 shall be expended for grants to support hands-on CPR training in public schools across the commonwealth; provided further, that not less than \$250,000 shall be expended for Catie's Closet, Inc. to provide students in schools with a high percentage of low-income and homeless students with: (i) in-school access to clothing, toiletries, and basic necessities; and (ii) community-based resources including, but not limited to, social services, mental health services and behavioral health services; provided further, that not less than \$20,000 shall be expended to the Lunenburg public schools for technology upgrades; provided further, that not less than \$10,000 shall be expended to the Acushnet council on aging and community center to replace its outdated HVAC system; provided further, that not less than \$10,000 shall be expended to the Westport public schools for the replacement of HVAC filters, parts, and service; provided further, that not less than \$10,000 shall be expended to the Acushnet public schools for the replacement of HVAC filters, parts, and service; provided further, that not less than \$50,000 shall be expended for Community Investors, Inc.'s PowerPlay Initiative in the town of Wellesley in support of the expansion of an inclusive after-school and out-of-school-time recreational program at urban and suburban Massachusetts schools; provided further, that not less than \$15,000 shall be expended to the West Newton Cinema Foundation, Inc. for accessibility improvements; provided further, that not less than \$100,000 shall be expended to BPE, Inc., to support the educator career pathways program; provided further, that not less than \$25,000 shall be expended to the Newton

Cultural Alliance, Inc./The Allen Center for the purchasing of equipment and related technical support to expand access; provided further, that not less than \$125,000 shall be expended to Stonehill College for the development of a nursing simulation lab to enhance clinical training and expand the health workforce pipeline; provided further, that not less than \$100,000 shall be expended to the John F. Kennedy Library for the expansion and modernization of digital infrastructure; provided further, that not less than \$50,000 shall be expended to the Community Music School of Springfield, Inc.; provided further, that not less than \$50,000 shall be expended to Newton public schools for professional development opportunities for educators including diversity, equity and inclusion initiatives and to support a leadership network across the Newton public schools; provided further, that not less than \$25,000 shall be expended to Woburn public schools for computer lab upgrades at the Woburn memorial high school in the city of Woburn; provided further, that not less than \$20,000 shall be expended to the Cuniff Elementary School Parent/Caregiver Teacher Organization in the city of Watertown to improve the academic and social experiences of students through enhanced volunteer partnerships between students, parents, caregivers and teachers; provided further, that not less than \$200,000 shall be expended to the city of Worcester for the Recreation Worcester program; provided further, that not less than \$200,000 shall be expended to the Behavioral Health Integrated Resources for Children (BIRCH) project for the operations of the school-based behavioral health technical assistance center; provided further, that not less than \$50,000 shall be expended to the Belmont public schools for stipends for afterschool programs; and provided further, that not less than \$15,000 shall be expended to Belmont Against Racism for afterschool transportation and other student programing”; and in said item by striking out the figures: “100,000” and inserting in place thereof the figures: “2,895,000”;

In item 7027-0019, in line 17, by inserting after the word “job” the following: “; provided further, that not less than \$200,000 shall be expended to Girls Inc. for the operation of the SMART and Eureka programs at the Framingham, Holyoke, Lowell, Lynn, Pittsfield and Worcester chapters of Girls Inc.”; and in said item by striking out the figures: “6,472,081” and inserting in place thereof the figures: “6,672,801”;

In item 7027-1004, in line 15, by inserting after the word “acquisition” the following: “; provided further, that not less than \$50,000 shall be expended to the Hudson Maynard Adult Learning Center”; and in said item by striking out the figures: “3,712,905” and inserting in place thereof the figures: “3,762,905”;

In item 7028-0031, in line 4, by inserting after the word “correction” the following: “; provided further, that not less than \$25,000 shall be expended to Fundacion CEMDPCD to support, educate, and advocate on behalf of low-income parents of students with learning disabilities in the city of Lawrence”; and in said item by striking out the figures: “8,750,748” and inserting in place thereof the figures: “8,775,748”;

In item 7035-0006, in line 8, by inserting after the word “opportunities” the following: “; provided further, that not less than \$50,000 shall be expended to the town of Hopedale for the planning, design and implementation of a security system for the Hopedale Junior Senior High School”; and in said item by striking out the figures: “57,112,492” and inserting in place thereof the figures: “57,162,494”;

In item 7061-0033 by adding the following: “ and provided further, that not less than \$150,000 shall be expended to the town of Lincoln to mitigate the costs of educating the children of retired-military families”;

In item 7061-9408, in line 54, by inserting after the word “months” the following: “; provided further, that not less than \$100,000 shall be expended for the

recruitment and training of educators offered by Teach for America Massachusetts to expand the teacher corps to address teacher vacancies in high need public schools and to close achievement gaps; provided further, that not less than \$25,000 shall be expended to the Gravel Pit Academy Foundation for the expansion of equitable access to high-quality athletic development and educational support for underserved youth across the south shore”; and in said item by striking out the figures: “16,408,966” and inserting in place thereof the figures: “16,533,966”;

In item 7061-9611, in line 35, by inserting after the word “law” the following: “; provided further, that not less than \$25,000 shall be expended to the city of Lowell to provide more than 20 teens from the Acre neighborhood section of the city of Lowell with hands-on training in podcast creation; provided further, that not less than \$75,000 shall be expended to the city of New Bedford for the Girls Design Academy; provided further, that not less than \$50,000 shall be expended to Steps to Success to provide academic and personal support for low-income students from 4th grade to college graduation; provided further, that not less than \$75,000 shall be granted to the Cape Verdean Association of Brockton for employment positions for at-risk youth within their YEP! We Can Summer Program; provided further, that not less than \$15,000 shall be expended to the Paris Street Council to support programming, including expanded accessible recreation and partnerships with the Special Olympics; provided further, that not less than \$10,000 shall be expended to Harlem Lacrosse Boston to support operations and programming at their East Boston site; provided further, that not less than \$50,000 shall be expended to Natick public schools to support targeted academic initiatives and family engagement efforts to accommodate multilingual learners at Natick public schools and to support programs designed to aid students who may benefit from additional academic support”; and in said item by striking out the figures: “7,203,178” and inserting in place thereof the figures: “7,503,178”;

In item 7061-9626 by adding the following: “; provided, that not less than \$100,000 shall be expended to the city of Everett’s Youth Development and Enrichment Department for the workforce development and summer jobs program in the city of Everett; and provided further, that not less than \$35,000 shall be expended to the Everett Art Labs in the city of Everett to support Listening Works, a youth development and apprenticeship program”; and in said item by striking out the figures: “1,750,000” and inserting in place thereof the figures: “1,885,000”;

In item 7061-9815, in line 6, by inserting after the word “outreach” the following: “; provided further, that not less than \$25,000 shall be expended on Mosaic Interfaith Youth Action”; and in said item by striking out the figures: “400,000” and inserting in place thereof the figures: “425,000”;

In item 7066-0015 by adding the following: “; and provided further, that not less than \$100,000 shall be expended to Holyoke Community College for the Recompete Program to provide wraparound services in partnerships with local employers”; and in said item by striking out the figures: “1,344,842” and inserting in place thereof the figures: “1,444,842”;

In item 7116-0100 by adding the following: “; provided, that not less than \$125,000 shall be expended to the John J. Binienda Center for Civic Education; and provided further, that not less than \$100,000 shall be expended for the Latino Education Institute and pre-collegiate programs”; and in said item by striking out the figures: “43,642,881” and inserting in place thereof the figures: “43,867,881”;

In section 2E by inserting after item 1595-0115 the following item:

“1595-0116 For the Genocide Education Trust Fund, established in section 2MMMM of chapter 29 of the General Laws; provided, that said funds shall be

distributed by the commissioner of elementary and secondary education for purposes related to the instruction of middle and high school students on the history of genocide, including, but not limited to: (i) development of curricular materials detailing the underlying causes, international reaction, progression and aftermath of genocide; and (ii) professional development training, including, but not limited to, the provision of trainings, seminars, conferences and materials, for educators to use in the teaching of genocide.....\$500,000”;

By inserting after section 30 the following 2 sections:

“SECTION 30A. Section 1B of chapter 69 of the General Laws, as amended by section 25 of chapter 14 of the acts 2025, is hereby further amended by adding the following paragraph:

The board shall establish a school meal nutrition standards advisory council to advise the commissioner on nutrition standards for meals served in schools, including, but not limited to, the implementation of the recommendations of the school meal nutrition standards commission established in section 77 of chapter 28 of the acts of 2023. The council shall: (i) provide ongoing guidance in the development of comprehensive strengthened nutrition standards aligned with the most current public health guidance and evidence-based nutrition standards; (ii) provide ongoing feasibility assessments; and (iii) work with school food authorities and stakeholders to reduce barriers to feasibility of implementation on issues, including, but not limited to, procurement, facilities and workforce training. The members of the council shall serve without compensation but may be reimbursed, subject to appropriation, for expenses necessarily and reasonably incurred in the performance of the member’s responsibilities. The council shall consist of the following 11 members: 6 members appointed by the governor who shall be school nutrition operators or registered dietitians representing geographically, racially and socio-economically diverse school districts; a representative from Project Bread – The Walk for Hunger, Inc.; a representative from the School Nutrition Association of Massachusetts, Inc.; a representative from the Massachusetts Healthy School Lunch Coalition; a representative from Massachusetts Farm to School Project, LLC; and a representative from the Massachusetts Food System Collaborative. Members shall serve for a term of 3 years. Members serving on the council shall represent a reasonable statewide geographic balance. The council shall meet not less than 4 times each year. The council shall elect a chair to serve for a term of 3 years who may appoint other officers as necessary.

SECTION 30B. Section 89 of chapter 71 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2024 Official Edition, is hereby amended by striking out subsection (mm) and inserting in place thereof the following 2 subsections:-

(mm) Each Horace Mann charter school’s enrollment and accountability data shall be included in the enrollment and accountability data, as a whole, for the district in which the school is located.

(nn) The board shall promulgate regulations for implementation and enforcement of this section.”; and

By inserting after section 55 the following section:

“SECTION 55A. Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, the bureau of purchased services in the operational services division shall determine prices for programs under chapter 71B of the General Laws in fiscal year 2027 by increasing the final fiscal year 2026 price by the rate of inflation as determined by the division. The division shall adjust prices for extraordinary relief pursuant to 808 C.M.R. 1.06(4). The division shall accept applications for program reconstruction and special circumstances in fiscal year 2027. The division shall authorize the fiscal year

2027 price for out-of-state purchasers requested by a program, not to exceed a maximum price determined by the bureau, by identifying the most recent price calculated for the program and applying the estimated rate of inflation for each year, as determined by the bureau pursuant to section 22N of chapter 7 of the General Laws, in which the rate of inflation is frozen beginning with fiscal year 2004, in a compounded manner for each fiscal year.”.

After debate on the question on adoption of the consolidated amendments (Mr. Donato of Medford having taken the Chair), the sense of the House was taken by the yeas and nays, as required under the provisions of House Rule 33F; and on the roll call 132 members voted in the affirmative and 23 in the negative.

**[See [Yea and Nay No. 167](#) in Supplement.]**

Therefore the consolidated amendments (education and local aid, and social services and veterans) were adopted.

At three minutes after five o’clock P.M., on motion of Mr. Michlewitz of Boston (Mr. Donato of Medford being in the Chair), the House recessed subject to the call of the Chair; and at one minute before eight o’clock, the House was called to order with Mr. Donato in the Chair.

Mr. Michlewitz of Boston and other members of the House then moved to amend the bill in section 2, in item 4000-0005, in line 13, by inserting after the word “programs” the following: “; provided further, that not less than \$50,000 shall be expended to the SISU Center in Lawrence to provide programming for at-risk youth in the Merrimack Valley; provided further, that not less than \$25,000 shall be expended to Friendship Home, Inc. to provide programming for those with developmental disabilities and their families”; and in said item by striking out the figures: “12,474,000” and inserting in place thereof the figures: “12,549,000”;

In item 4000-0007 by adding the following: “; and provided further, that not less than \$100,000 shall be expended to BAY-CASH to provide direct cash assistance to unaccompanied homeless youth”; and in said item by striking out the figures: “10,439,590” and inserting in place thereof the following figures: “10,539,590”;

In item 4000-0009, in line 4, by inserting after the word “office” the following: “; provided further, that not less than \$250,000 shall be expended to the Massachusetts Sickle Cell Association, Inc for advocacy, family support services, awareness campaigns and staff expansion”; and in said item by striking out the figures: “399,691” and inserting in place thereof the figures: “649,691”;

By inserting after item 4000-0009 the following item:  
“4000-0014 For the Edward M. Kennedy Community Health Center, Inc. to train community health workers to serve as the patient link to medical and social services for the disenfranchised population throughout the Worcester and MetroWest regions.....\$250,000”;

In item 4000-0020, in line 9, by inserting after the word “finance” the following: “; provided further, that not less than \$200,000 shall be expended to Northeastern University Bouve College of Health Sciences School of Nursing for scholarships, simulation programs and clinical partnerships at its city of Fall River campus; and in said item by striking out the figures: “625,000” and inserting in place thereof the figures: “825,000”;

In item 4000-0300, in line 151, by striking out the figures: “300,000” and inserting in place thereof the figures: “500,000”, in line 155, by inserting after the word “state” the following: “; provided further, that not less than \$50,000 shall be expended to Emerson Hospital in the town of Concord to expand its emergency behavioral health service capacity; provided further, that not less than \$75,000 shall

Consolidated amendments adopted,—  
yea and nay  
No. 167.

Recess.

Consolidated amendments (health and human services and aging and independence).

be expended to the Watertown Community Foundation, Inc. for support and stabilization services for vulnerable populations in the city known as the town of Watertown; provided further, that not less than \$75,000 shall be expended to Transhealth Inc. for infrastructure and programming; provided further, that not less than \$100,000 shall be expended to Sturdy Memorial Hospital, Inc. for services and equipment related to maternal care; provided further, that not less than \$2,000,000 shall be expended to Planned Parenthood League of Massachusetts, Inc. to support continued access to sexual and reproductive health care and community needs; provided further, that not less than \$150,000 shall be expended to New England Life Flight, Inc., doing business as, Boston MedFlight; provided further, that not less than \$25,000 shall be expended to Heywood Hospital for facility upgrades and the expansion of its bariatric program; provided further, that not less than \$75,000 shall be expended to the Brookline Community Mental Health Center, Inc. to expand the healthy lives program; provided further, that not less than \$100,000 shall be expended to St. Anthony Shrine Order of Friars Minor Province of the Most Holy Name to expand the Father Mychal Judge Center for counseling and recovery; provided further, that not less than \$150,000 shall be expended to Harbor Health Services, Inc. for the operation of its Program of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE) day centers; provided further, that not less than \$100,000 shall be expended to The Joint Committee for Children’s Health Care in Everett, Inc. for increased staffing needs”; and in said item by striking out the figures: “154,492,413” and inserting in place thereof the figures: “157,592,413”;

In item 4000-0601, in line 62, by inserting after the word “expansion” the following: “; provided further, that not less than \$2,973,456 shall be expended for the recognition of additional allowable costs to the standard base rate for nursing facilities located within 17 miles of 71 Hospital avenue in the city of North Adams; provided further, that not less than \$3,800,000 shall be expended for the recognition of additional allowable costs to the standard base rate over the base year rate established on October 1, 2024, for a nursing facility located on Martha’s Vineyard Island and within 8 miles of a hospital that has received federal government designation as a Critical Access Hospital”;

In item 4000-0641, in line 1, by striking out the year: “2026” and inserting in place thereof the year: “2027”, in line 7, by striking out the year: “2024,” and inserting in place thereof the following: “2025, as supplemented January 2026”; and in said item by striking out the figures: “650,073,456” and inserting in place thereof the figures: “655,073,456”;

In item 4000-0700, in line 15, by inserting after the word “plan” the following: “; provided further, that not less than \$8,000,000 shall be expended to the non-state, government public hospital system established under chapter 147 of the acts of 1996”; and in said item by striking out the figures: “4,234,817,619” and inserting in place thereof the figures: “4,237,817,619”;

In item 9110-0600, in lines 9 to 13, by striking out the following: “; provided further, that funds shall be expended from this item to implement the pre-admission counseling and assessment program under the fourth paragraph of section 9 of chapter 118E of the General Laws, which shall be implemented on a statewide basis through the Aging and Disability Resource Consortia”;

In item 9110-1455, in line 19, by inserting after the word “persons” the following: “; provided further, that funds shall be expended from this item to implement the pre-admission counseling and assessment program under the fourth paragraph of section 9 of chapter 118E of the General Laws, which shall be

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implemented on a statewide basis through the Aging and Disability Resource Consortia”;

In item 9110-1604 by adding the following: “; and provided further, that not less than \$200,000 shall be expended to Hearth, Inc. for facility upgrades and other improvements”; and in said item by striking out the figures: “12,382,272” and inserting in place thereof the figures: “12,582,272”;

In item 9110-1900, in lines 1 and 2, by striking out the following: “the amount appropriated in item 9110-1900 of section 2 of chapter 24 of the acts of 2021” and inserting in place thereof the following: “\$100,000”; and in said item by striking out the figures: “12,635,964” and inserting in place thereof the figures: “13,410,964”;

In item 9110-9002, in line 7, by striking out the word “and”, by adding the following: “; and provided further, that not less than \$10,000 shall be expended to the Fall River council on aging for community-based activities; provided further, that not less than \$25,000 shall be expended to the Wenham senior center for renovations and upgrades; provided further, that not less than \$25,000 shall be expended to the Chelsea senior center for their food delivery service; provided further, that not less than \$50,000 shall be expended to the Milano Senior Center for exterior improvements; provided further, that not less than \$25,000 shall be expended to Island Elderly Housing, Inc. for emergency preparedness; provided further, that not less than \$5,000 shall be expended to the town of East Brookfield for improvements to its senior center; provided further, that not less than \$60,000 shall be expended to the Yarmouth senior center for a roof replacement and HVAC stabilization; provided further, that not less than \$25,000 shall be expended to the Methuen senior activity center for operational costs and event planning; provided further, that not less than \$15,000 shall be expended to the town of Millis for senior center bathroom renovations; provided further, that not less than \$250,000 shall be expended to Parkway in Motion, Inc. for programming in Boston’s southwest neighborhoods; provided further, that not less than \$10,000 shall be expended to the Hanson council on aging for food programming and services; provided further, that not less than \$10,000 shall be expended to the Hanover council on aging for food programming and services; provided further, that not less than \$10,000 shall be expended to the Wareham council on aging’s out-of-town medical transportation programming; provided further, that not less than \$20,000 shall be expended to the Pepperell council on aging for new furniture in the Albert Harris Center meeting spaces; provided further, that not less than \$10,000 shall be expended to the Williamstown council on aging; provided further, that not less than \$10,000 shall be expended to the Cheshire council on aging; provided further, that not less than \$7,500 shall be expended to the Florida council on aging; provided further, that not less than \$10,000 shall be expended to the Adams council on aging; provided further, that not less than \$100,000 shall be expended to the Whipple Senior Center for costs associated with care, services, programs and facilities; provided further, that not less than \$20,000 shall be expended to the Westford council on aging to support van service costs; provided further, that not less than \$25,000 shall be expended to the Chelmsford council on aging for nutrition services; and provided further, that not less than \$100,000 shall be expended to Outstanding Life, Inc. for the operation of a statewide virtual senior center for LGBTQIA+ older adults”; and in said item by striking out the figures: “29,522,592” and inserting in place thereof the figures: “30,345,092”;

By inserting after section 6 the following section:

“SECTION 6A. Chapter 12C of the General Laws is hereby amended by striking out section 21 and inserting in place thereof the following section:

Section 21. (a) The center shall establish a continuing program of investigation and study of the uninsured and underinsured in the commonwealth, including the health insurance needs of the residents of the geographically isolated or rural areas of the commonwealth. Said continuing investigation and study shall examine the overall impact of programs developed by the center and the division of medical assistance on the uninsured, the underinsured and the role of employers in assisting their employees in affording health insurance.

(b)(1) For the purposes of this subsection, ‘public health access program beneficiary’ shall mean a person who is an enrollee in a: (i) MassHealth program established in section 9A of chapter 118E; or (ii) subsidized health care plan through the commonwealth health insurance connector authority established in section 2 of chapter 176Q.

(2) Annually, not later than December 1, the center shall submit a public health access program beneficiary employer report to the clerks of the house of representatives and the senate, the house and senate committees on ways and means and the joint committee on health care financing. The center may consult with other relevant agencies and departments to prepare the report. The report shall include data for the preceding fiscal year.

(3) The center shall utilize all available data, including, but not limited to, self-reported data provided by individuals who apply for public health assistance, if applicable.

(4) The report shall include the following information about each employer of 50 or more public health access program beneficiaries in the commonwealth: (i) the name and address of the employer; (ii) the number of each type of public health access program beneficiaries who are employees of the employer; (iii) the number of public health access program beneficiaries who are spouses or dependents of employees of the employer; (iv) whether the employer offers any employee health benefits; (v) the estimated cost to the commonwealth of providing public health access program benefits; and (vi) an analysis aggregating public health access program beneficiaries attributable to any single franchisor licensing 10 or more franchises in the commonwealth.

(5) The report shall not include the names of, or other identifying information about, any individual public health access program beneficiaries, and the report shall be subject to any applicable federal and state laws.”;

In section 7, in line 13, by striking out the words “so appearing” and inserting in place thereof the following words: “appearing in the 2024 Official Edition”;

By inserting after section 36 the following two sections:

“SECTION 36A. Said chapter 118E is hereby further amended by inserting after section 67A the following section:

Section 67B. (a) As used in this section, the following words shall, unless the context clearly requires otherwise, have the following meanings:

‘Ambulance service’, as defined in section 1 of chapter 111C.

‘Executive office’, the executive office of health and human services.

‘Public ambulance service’, ambulance services that are provided by a city or town, county, district or other governmental body and are licensed pursuant to section 6 of chapter 111C.

(b) The executive office shall implement voluntary programs to increase funding to public ambulance services, including, but not limited to, intergovernmental transfer programs, as authorized under section 1903(w)(6) of the federal Social Security Act, 42 CFR 433.51.

(c) Any additional funds received by public ambulance services pursuant to subsection (b) shall not be used to replace other payment commitments between public ambulance services and the commonwealth.

SECTION 36B. Section 69 of said chapter 118E, as appearing in the 2024 Official Edition, is hereby amended by adding the following subsection:

(e) Notwithstanding 101 CMR 614.00 and any successor rules or regulations or any other general or special law, rule or regulation to the contrary, the office shall not apply a payment adjustment with respect to a shortfall allocation to a federally qualified community health center established under chapter 147 of the acts of 1995.”;

In section 37, in line 420, by striking out the following: “appearing in the 2024 Official Edition” and inserting in place thereof the words “so appearing”;

By inserting after section 51 the following section:

“SECTION 51A. (a) There is hereby established a special commission to study and report on the appropriate level and structure of dental benefits provided by MassHealth and the health safety net. The commission shall evaluate whether the MassHealth and the health safety net dental benefits are clinically appropriate, financially sustainable and sufficient to ensure access to medically necessary dental services.

(b) The commission shall consist of the following 17 members: the secretary of health and human services or a designee, who shall serve as chair; the undersecretary of MassHealth or a designee; the commissioner of public health or a designee; the chairs of the joint committee on health care financing; the chairs of the joint committee on public health; 1 member appointed by the minority leader of the house of representatives; 1 member appointed by the minority leader of the senate; 1 member who is a representative of Massachusetts Dental Society; 1 member who is a representative of Health Care for All, Inc.; 1 member who is a representative of The Massachusetts League of Community Health Centers, Inc.; 1 member who is a representative of the Massachusetts Health and Hospital Association, Inc.; and 4 members to be appointed by the governor, 1 of whom shall be a representative of an oral health advocacy organization and 3 of whom shall be dental providers that participate in MassHealth.

(c) The commission shall: (i) assess the current dental benefit structure, including covered services and utilization among adult populations; (ii) evaluate alternative benefit designs, including, but not limited to, dollar limits, defined service packages or other models and their clinical appropriateness; (iii) examine the impact of benefit structures on patient outcomes, including access to preventive, restorative and emergency services, oral health status and unmet need; (iv) assess impacts on providers and other health resources, including participation in MassHealth, financial viability, administrative burden, capacity and emergency care; (v) analyze geographic variation in access to care and identify areas with provider shortages; (vi) evaluate how benefit design influences provider enrollment and participation, including barriers and opportunities; (vii) consider the needs of underserved populations and assess how benefit design affects disparities in access and outcomes; and (viii) review best practices from other state Medicaid programs and relevant national standards.

(d) Not later than January 1, 2027, the commission shall file its report and recommendations with the clerks of the house of representatives and the senate, the house and senate committees on ways and means, the joint committee on health care financing and the joint committee on public health. The commission’s recommendations shall include, but shall not be limited to, the appropriate level and structure of benefits, including changes to covered services, limits or reimbursement based on the study and review of benefits pursuant to subsection (c).”;

By inserting after section 56 the following two sections:

“SECTION 56A. Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, the comptroller, at the direction of the secretary of administration and finance, shall transfer \$37,500,000 from the Commonwealth Federal Matching and Debt Reduction Fund established in section 2EEEEEE of chapter 29 of the General Laws, inserted by section 2 of chapter 214 of the acts of 2024, to the Health Safety Net Trust Fund established in section 66 of chapter 118E of the General Laws.

SECTION 56B. Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, the comptroller, at the direction of the secretary of administration and finance, shall transfer \$8,000,000 from the Commonwealth Federal Matching and Debt Reduction Fund established in section 2EEEEEE of chapter 29 of the General Laws, inserted by section 2 of chapter 214 of the acts of 2024, to the General Fund.”; and

By inserting after section 72 the following section:

“SECTION 72A. Not later than October 1, 2026, the executive office of health and human services shall submit proposals to the federal Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services pursuant to subsection (b) of section 67B of chapter 118E of the General Laws, inserted by section 36A, as necessary to make supplemental payments for public ambulance services that make an intergovernmental transfer.”.

After debate on the question on adoption of the consolidated amendments, the sense of the House was taken by the yeas and nays, as required under the provisions of House Rule 33F; and on the roll call 136 members voted in the affirmative and 20 in the negative.

**[See [Yea and Nay No. 168](#) in Supplement.]**

Therefore the consolidated amendments (health and human services and aging and independence) were adopted.

*Recess.*

At twenty-one minutes after eight o’clock P.M., on motion of Mr. Jones of North Reading (Mr. Donato of Medford being in the Chair), the House recessed until the following day at eleven o’clock A.M.; and at that time the House was called to order with Mr. Donato of Medford in the Chair.

Consolidated amendments adopted,—  
yea and nay  
No. 168.

Recess.