

1           **SECTION 4.** Section 17 of chapter 6 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2022  
2 Official Edition, is hereby amended by striking out, in lines 6 and 7, the words “, the Massachusetts  
3 commission against discrimination”.

4           **SECTION 5.** Said chapter 6 is hereby further amended by striking out section 56 and  
5 inserting in place thereof the following section:-

6           Section 56. (a) There shall be a commission to be known as the Massachusetts  
7 commission against discrimination. The commission shall be an independent agency of the  
8 government of the commonwealth and shall not be subject to the control of any other department  
9 or agency.

10           (b)(1) The commission shall consist of 5 members, to be known as commissioners: 3 of  
11 whom shall be appointed by the governor; and 2 of whom shall be appointed by the attorney  
12 general. The governor shall designate 1 commissioner as chair, who shall devote their full-time  
13 duties to their office and the remaining 4 commissioners shall be per diem. Two commissioners  
14 shall reside in Worcester, Hampden, Hampshire, Franklin or Berkshire county and 3  
15 commissioners shall reside in any of the remaining counties of the commonwealth.

16           (2) Each commissioner shall be appointed for a term of 3 years. Any commissioner  
17 chosen to fill a vacancy occurring other than by expiration of a term shall be appointed for the  
18 unexpired term of the commissioner whom they are to succeed. Three commissioners shall  
19 constitute a quorum for the purpose of conducting the business of the commission and a majority  
20 of commissioners present and voting shall be required for any action of the commission. The  
21 chair may call a meeting of the commission and may call for a vote on any matter designated for  
22 a vote on the notice of the meeting. A vacancy shall not impair the right of the remaining  
23 commissioners to exercise all the powers of the commission. A commissioner may be removed  
24 by their appointing authority for inefficiency, neglect of duty, misconduct or malfeasance in  
25 office, after being given a written statement of the charges and an opportunity to be heard  
26 thereon.

27           (c)(1) The commission shall appoint an executive director. The executive director shall  
28 be the executive and administrative head of the commission. The executive director shall: (i)  
29 serve at the pleasure of the commission; (ii) receive a salary at least commensurate with the  
30 salary received by the chair of the commission, as may be determined by the commission; and  
31 (iii) devote their full time and attention to the duties of the office. The executive director shall be  
32 a person with skill and experience in management. The executive director shall be responsible  
33 for the day-to-day operations of the commission and for administering and ensuring the  
34 commission’s ability to enforce the provisions of law relative to the commission and to each  
35 administrative unit thereof, which shall include, but shall not be limited to, developing protocols  
36 and procedures to execute the commission’s regulations and to expedite the handling of cases  
37 and complaints.

38 (2) The executive director shall annually render a written report to the governor and the  
39 general court of the commission's activities and any recommendations.

40 (d)(1) The executive director shall employ a chief financial officer, who shall be  
41 responsible for all funds of the commission. The executive director may employ attorneys, clerks  
42 and other employees and agents as the executive director may deem necessary, fix their  
43 compensation within the limitations provided by law and prescribe their duties.

44 (2) All employees of the commission shall be subject to chapter 31 and the rules and  
45 regulations thereunder; provided, however, that chapter 31 and the rules and regulations  
46 thereunder shall not apply to the executive director, executive secretary, the heads and deputy  
47 heads of divisions, attorneys, field representatives and such other positions as the commission  
48 may from time to time designate.

49 (e) There shall be regional offices located in the cities of Fall River, Springfield and  
50 Worcester. The commission shall hold public hearings, as needed, in the respective regions.  
51 Every case shall, to the extent practicable, be heard in the region in which the complainant  
52 resides.

53 (f)(1) The governor and the attorney general shall appoint an advisory board to the  
54 commission, consisting of not less than 21 persons: 13 of whom shall be appointed by the  
55 governor and 8 of whom shall be appointed by the attorney general. The members of the  
56 advisory board shall include diverse representation and strive to include: (i) persons with  
57 expertise in fair housing laws and regulations; (ii) owners and brokers of residential property;  
58 (iii) major lending and credit institutions; (iv) major private employers; (v) a designee of the civil  
59 service commission; (vi) post-secondary educational institutions; (vii) major labor organizations;  
60 (viii) minority racial, ethnic and linguistic groups; (ix) women; (x) older adults; (xi) persons with  
61 disabilities; and (xii) recipients of public assistance.

62 (2) Each member of the advisory board shall be appointed for a term of 5 years. Any  
63 advisory board member chosen to fill a vacancy occurring other than by expiration of a term  
64 shall be appointed for the unexpired term of the advisory board member whom they are to  
65 succeed. The governor shall from time to time designate 1 member as chair of the advisory  
66 board. The members of the advisory board shall not be compensated for their services, but they  
67 shall be reimbursed for travel and other expenses necessary for the performance of their duties.  
68 The executive director may provide technical and clerical assistance to the advisory board.

69 (3) The advisory board shall: (i) advise the commission on matters of policy affecting the  
70 commission; (ii) review the implementation of the commission's programs and policies; (iii)  
71 from time to time report their conclusions to the commission and the commissioner appointing  
72 authorities; and (iv) coordinate the activities of the local or regional advisory boards appointed  
73 pursuant to subsection 8 of section 3 of chapter 151B.

74 **SECTION 6.** Section 18N of chapter 6A of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2022  
75 Official Edition, is hereby amended by striking out, in line 30, the words "the chief justice of the

76 trial court or a designee” and inserting in place thereof the following words:- a retired judge of  
77 the trial court to be appointed by the governor.

78 **SECTION 7.** Section 4 of chapter 6C of the General Laws, as so appearing, is hereby  
79 amended by striking out, in line 98, the figure “\$40,000,000” and inserting in place thereof the  
80 following figure:- \$35,000,000.

81 **SECTION 8.** Subsection (a) of section 25 of chapter 10 of the General Laws, as  
82 amended by section 9 of chapter 140 of the acts of 2024, is hereby further amended by inserting  
83 after the word “appropriation”, the first time it appears, the following words:- ; provided,  
84 however, that the commission may enter into contracts or group agreements for lottery games not  
85 currently or previously authorized by the commission, resulting in a contractor or licensor to be  
86 paid a specified percentage of net or gross revenues of such game, and such payments shall not  
87 be subject to appropriation.

88 **SECTION 9.** Section 11K of chapter 12 of the General Laws is hereby repealed.

89 **SECTION 10.** Section 11M of said chapter 12, as appearing in the 2022 Official Edition,  
90 is hereby amended by striking out, in lines 52 to 54, inclusive, the words “; provided, however,  
91 that the commission shall not approve such a request if the request would exceed an annual  
92 reimbursement of \$3,000,000”.

93 **SECTION 11.** Subsection (c) of section 20 of chapter 15D of the General Laws, as  
94 inserted by section 36 of chapter 140 of the acts of 2024, is hereby amended by striking out, in  
95 the third sentence, the figure “1”, each time it appears, and inserting in place thereof, in each  
96 instance, the following figure:- 1.25.

97 **SECTION 12.** Section 7A of chapter 26 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2022  
98 Official Edition, is hereby amended, in lines 18, 33 and 38, by inserting after the figure “176B”,  
99 in each instance, the following figure:- , 176E.

100 **SECTION 13.** Subsection (a) of section 2BBBBBB of chapter 29 of the General Laws,  
101 as most recently amended by section 52 of chapter 140 of the acts of 2024, is hereby further  
102 amended by striking out the figure “\$250,000,000” and inserting in place thereof the following  
103 figure:- \$500,000,000.

104 **SECTION 14.** Section 64 of said chapter 29, as appearing in the 2022 Official Edition, is  
105 hereby amended by striking out, in line 31, the words “independent contractors” and inserting in  
106 place thereof the following words:- contracted employees.

107 **SECTION 15.** Said section 64 of said chapter 29, as so appearing, is hereby further  
108 amended by adding the following paragraph:-

109 The state treasurer, on behalf of the commonwealth, may establish an automatic  
110 enrollment feature within the deferred compensation program. The automatic enrollment feature  
111 shall not require prior authorization by an employee. Automatic enrollment features shall be set

112 forth in the deferred compensation plan document and shall include, but shall not be limited to,  
113 the following:

114 (i) automatic enrollment shall apply only to employees hired on or after January 1, 2026;  
115 provided, however, that for any commonwealth agencies or departments that purchase or make  
116 payments to an individual or group annuity contract, custodial account or any other investment  
117 authorized under section 403(b) of the Code for its employees, automatic enrollment shall only  
118 apply at said agency's or department's discretion and affirmative election;

119 (ii) automatic enrollment shall apply only to new employees of a governmental body,  
120 described in section 64B, if the governmental body elects to implement the automatic enrollment  
121 feature for its employees;

122 (iii) automatic enrollment shall not require new employees to defer any amount of their  
123 compensation;

124 (iv) an employee who is automatically enrolled shall have the option to decline  
125 participation in the plan and shall have 90 days from the date of enrollment to discontinue  
126 participation in the plan;

127 (v) a qualified default investment option shall be made to receive contributions by any  
128 automatically-enrolled employee who does not choose an investment alternative to receive the  
129 employee's contributions; and

130 (vi) notice requirements to automatically-enrolled participants shall be made in  
131 accordance with federal law.

132 **SECTION 16.** Section 64B of said chapter 29, as so appearing, is hereby amended by  
133 inserting after the third paragraph the following paragraph:-

134 On behalf of a governmental body, the body's treasurer or, if there is no treasurer, the  
135 chief financial officer by whatever name that person is called, may at its own election implement  
136 an automatic enrollment feature within its deferred compensation program established pursuant  
137 to this section. The automatic enrollment feature shall not require advance authorization by an  
138 employee. Subject to the election of each governmental body, any such automatic enrollment  
139 feature permitted as a part of a governmental body's deferred compensation program shall only  
140 apply to new employees of a governmental body hired on or after January 1, 2026 and such  
141 deferred compensation program shall be required to include the specifications for auto  
142 enrollment detailed in clauses (ii) through (vi), inclusive, of the ninth paragraph of section 64.

143 **SECTION 17.** The definition of "Employee" in section 1 of chapter 32 of the General  
144 Laws, as so appearing, is hereby amended by adding the following sentence:- "Employee", as  
145 applied to persons whose regular compensation is paid by the advisory board to the  
146 Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority established in section 7A of chapter 161A, shall  
147 mean any person who is engaged in duties that require that the person's time be devoted to the

148 service of said advisory board in each year during the ordinary working hours of regular and  
149 permanent employees.

150 **SECTION 18.** Said section 1 of said chapter 32, as so appearing, is hereby further  
151 amended by inserting after the word “District,” in line 389, the following words:- the advisory  
152 board to the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority as established in section 7A of chapter  
153 161A.

154 **SECTION 19.** Said section 1 of said chapter 32, as so appearing, is hereby further  
155 amended by inserting after the word “employer”, in line 602, the following words:- , including  
156 any accrued sick, personal or vacation leave except when paid as a supplement to the receipt of  
157 weekly workers’ compensation benefits pursuant to section 69 of chapter 152.

158 **SECTION 20.** Section 2 of said chapter 32, as so appearing, is hereby amended by  
159 inserting after the word “Council”, in line 21, the following words:- , the advisory board to the  
160 Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority established in section 7A of chapter 161A.

161 **SECTION 21.** Section 2 of chapter 32A of the General Laws, as so appearing, is hereby  
162 amended by inserting after the word “Authority”, in line 16, the following words:- , the advisory  
163 board to the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority as established in section 7A of chapter  
164 161A.

165 **SECTION 22.** Section 2A of chapter 65C of the General Laws, as amended by sections  
166 36 and 37 of chapter 50 of the acts of 2023, is hereby further amended by striking out paragraphs  
167 (a) and (b) and inserting in place thereof the following 2 paragraphs:-

168 (a) A tax is hereby imposed upon the transfer of the estate of each person dying on or  
169 after January 1, 1997 who, at the time of death, was a resident of the commonwealth. The  
170 amount of the tax shall be equal to the credit for state death taxes that would have been allowable  
171 to a decedent’s estate as computed under section 2011 of the Code, as in effect on December 31,  
172 2000, hereinafter referred to as the “credit”. The credit shall be determined based on the value of  
173 the federal gross estate after such estate is increased by the value of any property: (i) not  
174 included in the federal gross estate; (ii) in which the decedent had at death a qualifying income  
175 interest for life described in subsection (c) of section 3A; (iii) for which a deduction was allowed  
176 for Massachusetts estate tax purposes with respect to the transfer of such property to the  
177 decedent; and (iv) which is not real or tangible personal property located outside of the  
178 commonwealth at the time of death. If the federal gross estate of a person includes real or  
179 tangible personal property located outside of the commonwealth at the time of death, the credit  
180 shall be determined based on the value of the federal gross estate after such estate is reduced by  
181 the value of such real or tangible personal property located outside of the commonwealth and  
182 increased by the value of any property: (A) not included in the federal gross estate; (B) in which  
183 the decedent had at death a qualifying income interest for life described in subsection (c) of  
184 section 3A; (C) for which a deduction was allowed for Massachusetts estate tax purposes with  
185 respect to the transfer of such property to the decedent; and (D) that is not real or tangible  
186 personal property located outside of the commonwealth at the time of death; provided, however,

187 that for the purposes of calculating the federal taxable estate, no deduction shall be allowed that  
188 is attributable to such real or tangible personal property located outside of the commonwealth.

189 (b) A tax is hereby imposed upon the transfer of real property situated in this  
190 commonwealth and upon tangible personal property having an actual situs in this commonwealth  
191 of every person who at the time of their death was not a resident of this commonwealth. The  
192 amount of this tax is the amount of the credit calculated based upon a federal gross estate that is  
193 equal to the sum of: (i) the value of the estate's real or tangible personal property located in the  
194 commonwealth; and (ii) the value of any real or tangible property: (A) not included in the federal  
195 gross estate; (B) in which the decedent had at death a qualifying income interest for life  
196 described in subsection (c) of section 3A; (C) for which a deduction was allowed for  
197 Massachusetts estate tax purposes with respect to the transfer of such property to the decedent;  
198 and (D) which is not located outside of the commonwealth at the time of death. Under this  
199 subsection, for the purposes of calculating the federal taxable estate, no deduction shall be  
200 allowed that is attributable to property other than such real or tangible personal property located  
201 in the commonwealth.

202 **SECTION 23.** Chapter 112 of the General Laws is hereby amended by striking out  
203 section 87DDD1/2 and inserting in place thereof the following section:-

204 Section 87DDD1/2. (a) No person shall engage in the business of finding dwelling  
205 accommodations for prospective tenants for a fee unless such person is a licensed broker or real  
206 estate salesman as defined in section 87PP.

207 (b) A licensed broker or real estate salesperson may exclusively contract in writing with  
208 a: (i) prospective tenant to find for rent residential real property for a tenant; provided, that the  
209 licensed broker or real estate salesperson may present an offer to lease to the landlord or  
210 landlord's agent and negotiate on behalf of the tenant; or (ii) landlord or landlord's agent to find  
211 a tenant for a residential real property.

212 (c) No tenant or prospective tenant shall be charged a commission or other fee by a  
213 licensed broker or real estate salesperson for procuring residential real property for lease or  
214 rental, including if the broker has been engaged by the landlord to market the premises  
215 exclusively; provided, however, that the tenant or prospective tenant may be responsible for  
216 rental brokerage fees only if: (i) the tenant or prospective tenant initiated contact with the  
217 licensed broker or real estate salesperson, including, but not limited to, by responding to an  
218 advertisement or listing; (ii) has received a rental brokerage fee disclosure from the licensed  
219 broker or real estate salesperson; and (iii) has agreed to the terms and conditions of the brokerage  
220 fee disclosure in writing and in accordance with applicable law.

221 **SECTION 24.** Section 9D of chapter 118E of the General Laws, as appearing in the  
222 2022 Official Edition, is hereby amended by striking out, in line 21, the words "or MassHealth-  
223 only".

224           **SECTION 25.** Said section 9D of said chapter 118E, as so appearing, is hereby further  
225 amended by striking out, in line 31, the word “or” and inserting in place thereof the following  
226 word:- and.

227           **SECTION 26.** Said section 9D of said chapter 118E, as so appearing, is hereby further  
228 amended by striking out, in lines 55 and 56, the words “or only eligible for benefits under Title  
229 XIX of the Social Security Act”.

230           **SECTION 27.** Section 63 of said chapter 118E, as so appearing, is hereby amended by  
231 striking out, in lines 27 and 28, the words “the lesser of \$240,000,000, or an amount” and  
232 inserting in place thereof the following words:- an amount less than or.

233           **SECTION 28.** Chapter 138 of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after  
234 section 12C the following section:-

235           Section 12D. (a) In any city or town that accepts this section, the local licensing authority  
236 may allow any licensee that is licensed to sell only wines and malt beverages pursuant to section  
237 12 to trade in said license and be issued a license to sell all alcoholic beverages pursuant to  
238 section 12; provided, that any wine and malt beverage license that is traded in to the local  
239 licensing authority for an all alcoholic beverage license under this section shall become non-  
240 transferable upon the issuance of the license to sell all alcoholic beverages; provided, however,  
241 that a license converted under this section shall be subject to all other relevant provisions of this  
242 chapter.

243           (b) The local licensing authority of a city or town that accepts this section may charge a  
244 reasonable fee that shall not be excessive for a license for wine and malt beverage to be traded in  
245 for an all alcoholic beverages license under this section.

246           (c) The local licensing authority of a city or town that accepts this section may establish  
247 additional requirements for a license for wine and malt beverage to be traded in for an all  
248 alcoholic beverages license under this section.

249           (d) A license for wine and malt beverage traded in for an all alcoholic beverages license  
250 under this section shall not increase the total number of licenses authorized pursuant to section  
251 17 or any other general or special law.

252           **SECTION 29.** Section 15B of chapter 186 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2022  
253 Official Edition, is hereby amended by inserting after the word “pay”, in line 17, the following  
254 words:- , to the lessor or to any agent of the lessor,.

255           **SECTION 30.** Chapter 258B of the General Laws is hereby amended by striking out  
256 section 4 and inserting in place thereof the following section:-

257           Section 4. (a) There shall be a victim and witness assistance board consisting of 7  
258 members who shall serve without compensation. Notwithstanding any provision of section 6 of  
259 chapter 268A to the contrary, the board shall consist of the attorney general or a designee, who

260 shall serve as chair, and 6 persons to be appointed by the governor, 2 of whom shall be district  
261 attorneys and 4 of whom shall be members of the public of whom 3 shall be victims of a crime  
262 and 1 shall represent a community disproportionately impacted by high rates of violence and  
263 crime or a population underserved due to racial or ethnic identity; provided, however, that the 3  
264 members who are victims of a crime shall be selected from a list of not less than 5 nominations  
265 provided by the executive director of the Massachusetts office of victim assistance. For the  
266 purposes of this subsection, "members of the public" shall not include any current local, state or  
267 federal elected officials. Members of the board shall be selected from diverse ethnicities, races,  
268 religions, ages, sexual orientations, gender identities, socio-economic status and geographical  
269 backgrounds from throughout the commonwealth. Each member shall serve for a term of 3 years  
270 and until their successor is duly appointed and qualified; provided, however, that any person  
271 appointed to fill a vacancy shall serve only for the remainder of the unexpired term. Members of  
272 the board shall be eligible for reappointment.

273 (b) The board shall, by majority vote of its members, appoint an executive director who  
274 shall serve, subject to appropriation, at such rate of compensation as the board directs for a term  
275 of 3 years unless removed for cause by a vote of 6 members of the board. The executive director,  
276 subject to appropriation, shall have the power to hire staff, subject to the approval of the board,  
277 as is needed to fulfill the powers and duties of the board. The executive director shall have such  
278 other powers and duties as the board may delegate to them.

279 (c) The provisions of chapter 31 shall not apply to the executive director or any employee  
280 of the board.

281 (d) The board shall review program plans, annual reports and the implementation and  
282 operation of programs as described in this chapter. The board shall promulgate rules for the  
283 preparation and review of such program plans and annual reports.

284 (e) In addition to the foregoing, the board shall:

285 (i) have printed and shall make available to social service agencies, medical facilities and  
286 law enforcement agencies, cards, posters, brochures or other materials explaining the victim and  
287 witness rights and services established under this chapter;

288 (ii) assist hospitals, clinics and other medical facilities, whether public or private, in  
289 disseminating information giving notice of the rights established under this chapter; provided,  
290 that this assistance may include providing informational materials including posters suitable to  
291 be displayed in emergency and waiting rooms;

292 (iii) assist law enforcement agencies in familiarizing all of their officers and employees  
293 with the crime victims' rights as provided under this chapter; provided, that this assistance may  
294 include supplying informational literature on this subject to be utilized as part of the training  
295 curriculum for all trainee officers;

296 (iv) assist all local law enforcement agencies in establishing procedures whereby  
297 expedient notification is given to victims and witnesses, as defined under this chapter, of the



298 rights provided under this chapter; provided, that in municipalities that do not have a local law  
299 enforcement agency, the board shall establish procedures whereby it, in cooperation with the  
300 state police, shall give notice to victims of crimes as provided in this section;

301 (v) assume the management and administration of the Garden of Peace, a public  
302 memorial garden located on the plaza of 100 Cambridge street in the city of Boston to honor  
303 victims of homicide, to receive gifts or grants of money or property to assist the board in the  
304 maintenance and operation of the memorial and to establish an advisory committee that shall  
305 consist of individuals who have served on the board of directors of the Garden of Peace or other  
306 interested citizens appointed by the victim witness assistance board to provide ongoing advice to  
307 the board; and

308 (vi) administer the provisions of chapter 258C through the Massachusetts office for  
309 victim assistance.

310 (f) The executive director, appointed by the board, shall have the authority to promulgate  
311 rules and regulations pursuant to chapter 30A as may be necessary to carry out this chapter.

312 **SECTION 31.** Section 1 of chapter 258C of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2022  
313 Official Edition, is hereby amended by inserting before the definition of “Catastrophic injury”  
314 the following definition:-

315 “Agency”, the Massachusetts office for victim assistance, which administers the  
316 provisions of chapter 258B on behalf of the victim and witness assistance board.

317 **SECTION 32.** Said section 1 of said chapter 258C, as so appearing, is hereby further  
318 amended by striking out the definition of “Department”.

319 **SECTION 33.** Said section 1 of said chapter 258C, as so appearing, is hereby further  
320 amended by striking out, in lines 32, 64 and 65, each time it appears, the word “his” and  
321 inserting in place thereof, in each instance, the following words:- the victim’s.

322 **SECTION 34.** Said section 1 of said chapter 258C, as so appearing, is hereby further  
323 amended by striking out the definition of “Division” and inserting in place thereof the following  
324 definition:-

325 “Director”, the executive director of the agency or the executive director’s designee.

326 **SECTION 35.** Section 2 of said chapter 258C, as so appearing, is hereby amended by  
327 striking out, in lines 2, 9, 29, 40 and 41, each time it appears, the word “division” and inserting  
328 in place thereof, in each instance, the following word:- agency.

329 **SECTION 36.** Said section 2 of said chapter 258C, as so appearing, is hereby further  
330 amended by striking out, in line 17, the word “he” and inserting in place thereof the following  
331 words:- the claimant.

332           **SECTION 37.** Subclause (B) of clause (1) of subsection (b) of section 3 of said chapter  
333 258C, as amended by section 155 of chapter 140 of the acts of 2024, is hereby further amended  
334 by striking out the word “program”.

335           **SECTION 38.** Subclause (D) of clause (2) of said subsection (b) of said section 3 of said  
336 chapter 258C, as appearing in the 2022 Official Edition, is hereby amended by striking out, in  
337 lines 61 and 68, each time it appears, the word “he” and inserting in place thereof, in each  
338 instance, the following words:- the victim.

339           **SECTION 39.** Subclause (E) of said clause (2) of said subsection (b) of said section 3 of  
340 said chapter 258C, as so appearing, is hereby amended by striking out, in line 73, the word “his”  
341 and inserting in place thereof the following words:- the victim’s.

342           **SECTION 40.** Said chapter 258C is hereby further amended by striking out section 4 and  
343 inserting in place thereof the following section:-

344           Section 4. (a) The agency shall administer this chapter. The director may appoint and  
345 remove investigative, legal, clerical or other staff as the work of the agency requires.

346           (b) The director may promulgate rules and regulations pursuant to chapter 30A as may be  
347 necessary to carry out this chapter.

348           (c) The director may apply for and receive sums which may be transmitted to the victim  
349 compensation fund maintained by the treasurer and for any other such funds as may become  
350 available to administer the requirements of this chapter.

351           **SECTION 41.** Section 5 of said chapter 258C, as appearing in the 2022 Official Edition,  
352 is hereby amended by striking out, in line 4, the word “he” and inserting in place thereof the  
353 following words:- the claimant.

354           **SECTION 42.** Said section 5 of said chapter 258C, as so appearing, is hereby further  
355 amended by striking out, in lines 6, 18, 20 and 26, each time it appears, the word “division” and  
356 inserting in place thereof, in each instance, the following word:- agency.

357           **SECTION 43.** Said section 5 of said chapter 258C, as so appearing, is hereby further  
358 amended by striking out, in line 22, the word “division” and inserting in place thereof the  
359 following words:- agency, through the attorney general,.

360           **SECTION 44.** Said section 5 of said chapter 258C, as so appearing, is hereby further  
361 amended by striking out, in line 33, the word “him” and inserting in place thereof the following  
362 words:- the person.

363           **SECTION 45.** Said section 5 of said chapter 258C, as so appearing, is hereby further  
364 amended by striking out, in line 33, the words “attorney general” and inserting in place thereof  
365 the following words:- agency, through the attorney general,.

366           **SECTION 46.** Section 6 of said chapter 258C, as so appearing, is hereby amended by  
367 striking out, in line 2, the word “division” and inserting in place thereof the following word:-  
368 agency.

369           **SECTION 47.** Said chapter 258C is hereby further amended by striking out section 7 and  
370 inserting in place thereof the following section:-

371           Section 7. Within 15 days of completion of the claims review, the director shall notify the  
372 claimant of compensation to be paid or denied and the reasons therefor and shall issue payment  
373 in accordance with regulations established under this chapter. The notice shall contain  
374 information regarding the right of the claimant to petition for judicial review of the decision by  
375 the director.

376           **SECTION 48.** Section 8 of said chapter 258C, as appearing in the 2022 Official Edition,  
377 is hereby amended by striking out, in lines 2, 4, 5, 8, 11 and 16, each time it appears, the word  
378 “program”.

379           **SECTION 49.** Said section 8 of said chapter 258C, as so appearing, is hereby further  
380 amended by striking out, in line 5, the word “his” and inserting in place thereof the following  
381 words:- the director’s.

382           **SECTION 50.** Section 9 of said chapter 258C, as so appearing, is hereby amended by  
383 striking out, in lines 2, 6, 9, 11 and 42, each time it appears, the word “program”.

384           **SECTION 51.** Said section 9 of said chapter 258C, as so appearing, is hereby further  
385 amended by striking out, in line 12, the word “his” and inserting in place thereof the following  
386 words:- the director’s.

387           **SECTION 52.** The first paragraph of subsection (e) of said section 9 of said chapter  
388 258C, as so appearing, is hereby amended by striking out the fourth and fifth sentences and  
389 inserting in place thereof the following 2 sentences:- The clerk of the court shall immediately  
390 notify the claimant in writing of the decision and shall forward to the agency a certified copy of  
391 the decision. The agency, without further authorization, shall, subject to appropriation, pay the  
392 claimant the amount determined by the court.

393           **SECTION 53.** Said section 9 of said chapter 258C, as so appearing, is hereby further  
394 amended by striking out, in lines 33, 34, 37, 40 and 41, each time it appears, the word “his” and  
395 inserting in place thereof, in each instance, the following words:- the victim’s.

396           **SECTION 54.** Section 11 of said chapter 258C, as so appearing, is hereby amended by  
397 striking out, in lines 6 and 7, the words “attorney general” and inserting in place thereof the  
398 following word:- agency.

399           **SECTION 55.** Said section 11 of said chapter 258C, as so appearing, is hereby further  
400 amended by striking out, in line 7, the words “attorney general” and inserting in place thereof the  
401 following words:- agency, through the attorney general,.

402           **SECTION 56.** Said section 11 of said chapter 258C, as so appearing, is hereby further  
403 amended by striking out, in line 8, the word “he”.

404           **SECTION 57.** Section 12 of said chapter 258C, as so appearing, is hereby amended by  
405 striking out, in line 4, the word “division” and inserting in place thereof the following word:-  
406 agency.

407           **SECTION 58.** Said section 12 of said chapter 258C, as so appearing, is hereby further  
408 amended by inserting after the word “general”, in line 15, the following words:- , representing  
409 the agency,.

410           **SECTION 59.** Said chapter 258C is hereby further amended by adding the following  
411 section:-

412           Section 15. (a) Except as otherwise provided in this section, all records and information  
413 received, obtained or maintained by the agency in connection with any claim for crime victim  
414 compensation shall be confidential and privileged. All records and information shall not be  
415 disclosed by the agency or by anyone who receives such records or information from the agency.

416           (b) Nothing in this section shall preclude disclosure of records or information:

417           (i) for the processing of a claim by the agency or responding to an action in court seeking  
418 review of a decision by the agency;

419           (ii) consisting of information exchanged between the claimant or the claimant’s  
420 authorized representative and the agency; provided, that the claimant or the claimant’s  
421 authorized representative consents to such disclosure in writing; or

422           (iii) upon a lawful order issued by a court of competent jurisdiction.

423           **SECTION 60.** Section 152 of chapter 68 of the acts of 2011 is hereby repealed.

424           **SECTION 61.** Section 81 of chapter 28 of the acts of 2023 is hereby amended by  
425 striking out the word “2-year”, each time it appears, and inserting in place thereof, in each  
426 instance, the following word:- 3-year.

427           **SECTION 62.** Subsection (d) of said section 81 of said chapter 28 is hereby amended by  
428 striking out the words “and July 1, 2026” and inserting in place thereof the following words:- ,  
429 and all subsequent annual reports shall be submitted not later than July 1 of each year thereafter.

430           **SECTION 63.** Section 114 of said chapter 28 is hereby amended by striking out the  
431 figure “2026” and inserting in place thereof the following figure:- 2027.

432           **SECTION 64.** Notwithstanding section 59 of chapter 23K of the General Laws or any  
433 other general or special law to the contrary, 100 per cent of the revenue received from a category

434 1 licensee, as defined in section 2 of said chapter 23K, pursuant to subsection (a) of section 55 of  
435 said chapter 23K, in fiscal year 2026 shall be transferred as follows:

436 (i) 30.1 per cent to the Gaming Local Aid Fund established in section 63 of said chapter  
437 23K;

438 (ii) 20.6 per cent to the Commonwealth Transportation Fund established in section 2ZZZ  
439 of chapter 29 of the General Laws;

440 (iii) 19.4 per cent to the Education Fund established in section 64 of said chapter 23K;

441 (iv) 13.2 per cent to the Gaming Economic Development Fund established in section  
442 2DDDD of said chapter 29;

443 (v) 6.2 per cent to the Local Capital Projects Fund established in section 2EEEE of said  
444 chapter 29;

445 (vi) 5 per cent to the Public Health Trust Fund established in section 58 of said chapter  
446 23K;

447 (vii) 2.5 per cent to the Race Horse Development Fund established in section 60 of said  
448 chapter 23K;

449 (viii) 2 per cent to the Massachusetts Cultural and Performing Arts Mitigation Trust Fund  
450 established in section 2HHHHH of said chapter 29; and

451 (ix) 1 per cent to the Massachusetts Tourism Trust Fund to fund tourist promotion  
452 agencies under subsection (b) of section 13T of chapter 23A of the General Laws.

453 **SECTION 65.** (a) There shall be a task force on vocational-technical education program  
454 admissions to examine and make recommendations on: (i) admissions policies pursuant to  
455 chapter 74 of the General Laws; (ii) the collection, dissemination and analysis of district-level  
456 and statewide data on vocational-technical education program admissions and waitlists for  
457 programs pursuant to said chapter 74; and (iii) the standard for review and enforcement of the  
458 policies pursuant to clause (i) and data collected, disseminated and analyzed pursuant to clause  
459 (ii).

460 (b) The task force shall consist of the following 15 members: the chairs of the joint  
461 committee on education, who shall serve as co-chairs; the chairs of the joint committee on labor  
462 and workforce development; a member of the house of representatives appointed by the house  
463 minority leader; a member of the senate appointed by the senate minority leader; 1 member of  
464 the gateway cities legislative caucus; the commissioner of elementary and secondary education  
465 or a designee; 1 member of the Massachusetts Association of Vocational Administrators; 1  
466 member of the Alliance for Vocational Technical Education; 1 member of the Massachusetts  
467 Career & Technical Educators Organization; 1 member of the Massachusetts Association of  
468 School Committees; 1 member of the Massachusetts Association of School Superintendents; 1

469 member of the Massachusetts Association of Regional Schools; and 1 member of the  
470 Massachusetts Municipal Association.

471 (c) The first meeting of the task force shall take place not later than September 15, 2025.  
472 The task force shall conduct at least 1 public hearing to receive testimony from members of the  
473 public. Not later than September 15, 2026, the task force shall file a report containing its findings  
474 and recommendations, including legislative recommendations, if any, with the clerks of the  
475 house of representatives and the senate and the house and senate committees on ways and means.

476 **SECTION 66.** (a) The executive office of health and human services shall establish a  
477 task force to address barriers and impediments to the practice of telehealth across state lines. The  
478 task force shall consist of the following 9 members: the secretary of the executive office of  
479 health and human services or a designee, who shall serve as chair; the commissioner of the  
480 department of public health or a designee; the commissioner of the department of mental health  
481 or a designee; the executive director of the board of registration in medicine or a designee; the  
482 undersecretary of the office of consumer affairs and business regulation or a designee; a  
483 representative from the health policy commission; a representative from the Massachusetts  
484 Medical Society; a representative from the Massachusetts Health and Hospital Association; and a  
485 representative from the Massachusetts League of Community Health Centers.

486 (b)(1) The task force shall conduct an analysis and issue a report evaluating the  
487 commonwealth's options to facilitate appropriate interstate medical practice and the practice of  
488 telemedicine, including, but not limited to, consideration of the recommendations from the  
489 Federation of State Medical Boards Workgroup on telemedicine, the Telehealth Act developed  
490 by the Uniform Law Commission, model legislation developed by the American Medical  
491 Association, the interstate medical licensure compact and other licensure reciprocity agreements.

492 (2) The analysis and report shall include, but shall not be limited to: (i) an analysis of  
493 physician job vacancies in the commonwealth broken down by practice specialization and  
494 projected vacancies based on the demographics of the commonwealth's physician workforce and  
495 medical school graduate retention rates; (ii) an analysis of other states' entry into the interstate  
496 medical licensure compact and any impact on quality of care resulting from entry; (iii) an  
497 analysis of the ability of physicians to provide follow-up care across state lines, including via  
498 telehealth; (iv) an analysis of registration models for providers who may provide care for patients  
499 via telehealth with the provider located in 1 state and the patient located in another state;  
500 provided, that said analysis shall include delineation of provider responsibilities for registration  
501 and reporting to state professional licensure boards; (v) an analysis of impacts to health care  
502 quality, cost and access resulting from other states' entry into a medical licensure compact and  
503 anticipated impacts to health care quality, cost and access associated with entry into an interstate  
504 medical licensure compact; (vi) evaluations of barriers and solutions regarding prescribing across  
505 state lines; (vii) evaluations of the feasibility of a regional reciprocity agreement allowing  
506 telemedicine across state lines both for existing patient provider relationships and the  
507 establishment of new relationships; (viii) evaluations of the feasibility of the establishment of  
508 interstate proxy credentialing; and (ix) recommendations to support the continuity of care for  
509 patients utilizing telehealth across state lines, including, but not limited to, recommendations to

510 support the continuity of care for people aged 25 and under when providing telehealth across  
511 state lines.

512 (c) The task force shall submit its report, including any recommendations, to the clerks of  
513 the house of representatives and the senate and the joint committee on health care financing not  
514 later than July 1, 2026.

515 **SECTION 67.** (a) The working group established pursuant to item 4000-0601 of section  
516 2 of chapter 140 of the acts of 2024 shall continue to develop recommendations, in addition to  
517 those filed in the personal care attendant working group report finalized on February 28, 2025,  
518 for the long-term sustainability of the personal care attendant program, including, but not limited  
519 to, cost growth targets and how to achieve those targets for the program. Said recommendations  
520 shall be filed with the secretary of administration and finance and the house and senate  
521 committees on ways and means not later than November 28, 2025.

522 (b)(1) The executive office of health and human services shall establish an  
523 implementation plan to preserve and allow for the long-term sustainability and cost containment  
524 of the personal care attendant program. The implementation plan shall include, but shall not be  
525 limited to: (i) a detailed description of how the recommendations from the February 28, 2025  
526 report and the report required pursuant to subsection (a) will be implemented, including, but not  
527 limited to: (A) any actions already taken to implement the recommendations and the dates on  
528 which said actions were taken; and (B) future actions needed to implement the  
529 recommendations; (ii) savings realized and anticipated from the implementation of the  
530 recommendations from the reports with a detailed description of any changes or adjustments  
531 from projected savings included in said reports; (iii) a timeline for the implementation of said  
532 recommendations; (iv) the program's growth rate in fiscal year 2026 as of December 15, 2025;  
533 (v) any additional changes to the program necessary to contain the program costs consistent with  
534 the goals of the working group and the cost growth targets determined by the working group  
535 pursuant to subsection (a); and (vi) any other information necessary to explain cost containment  
536 measures to be implemented for the program. Said implementation plan shall be filed with the  
537 secretary of administration and finance and the house and senate committees on ways and means  
538 not later than January 1, 2026.

539 (2) Not later than March 7, 2026, the executive office of health and human services shall  
540 submit an update on the progress of the implementation of the recommendations of the reports  
541 pursuant to subsection (a) and said report finalized February 28, 2025 and any other actions  
542 taken to preserve and allow for the long-term sustainability and cost containment of the personal  
543 care attendant program. The update on the progress of the implementation shall outline the  
544 impact of the cost growth targets and how those targets are being achieved. The report shall be  
545 submitted to the secretary of administration and finance and the house and senate committees on  
546 ways and means.

547 **SECTION 68.** Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, the  
548 department of elementary and secondary education shall not: (i) promulgate or otherwise amend  
549 its regulations relative to vocational-technical education program admissions pursuant to chapter  
550 74 of the General Laws prior to the completion of the report of the task force established

551 pursuant to section 65; or (ii) take any other action prior to the completion of the report of the  
552 task force that would otherwise alter, amend or affect the admissions policies of schools and  
553 programs pursuant to said chapter 74 for the 2025-2026 school year or 2026-2027 vocational-  
554 technical education program admissions cycle.

555 **SECTION 69.** Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, the  
556 comptroller shall transfer capital gains collected in excess of the threshold pursuant to section 5G  
557 of chapter 29 of the General Laws on a quarterly basis as follows: (i) 65 per cent to the  
558 Commonwealth's Pension Liability Fund established in subsection (e) of subdivision 8 of section  
559 22 of chapter 32 of the General Laws, which shall satisfy the fiscal year 2026 requirements set  
560 forth in subdivision (1) of section 22C of said chapter 32, as amended by section 22 of chapter  
561 28 of the acts of 2023; (ii) 20 per cent to the Commonwealth Stabilization Fund established in  
562 section 2H of said chapter 29; and (iii) 15 per cent to the State Retiree Benefits Trust Fund  
563 established in section 24 of chapter 32A of the General Laws.

564 **SECTION 70.** Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, the secretary  
565 of administration and finance may reduce the allotments of appropriations made in chapter 102  
566 of the acts of 2021 and chapter 268 of the acts of 2022 by up to \$200,000,000, which shall revert  
567 to the General Fund in the fiscal year ending June 30, 2026. Not less than 15 days before  
568 reducing said allotments, the secretary shall provide written notice to the house and senate  
569 committees on ways and means summarizing the allotment reductions subject to this provision.

570 **SECTION 71.** Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, for fiscal year  
571 2026, \$110,000,000 shall be considered operating assistance and distributed to regional transit  
572 authorities from item 1595-6370 of section 2E. For fiscal year 2026, \$94,000,000 of the amount  
573 transferred in item 1595-6370 shall be distributed based on fiscal year 2025 distributions in  
574 accordance with the updated fiscal year 2025 bilateral memorandum of understanding between  
575 each regional transit authority and the Massachusetts Department of Transportation; provided,  
576 however, that each regional transit authority shall receive operating assistance from said item  
577 1595-6370 of said section 2E of not less than the amount received in fiscal year 2025. The  
578 department may require each regional transit authority to provide data on ridership, customer  
579 service and satisfaction, asset management and financial performance, including farebox  
580 recovery, and shall compile any such collected data into a report on the performance of regional  
581 transit authorities and detail each authority's progress towards meeting the performance metrics  
582 established in each memorandum of understanding.

583 **SECTION 72.** Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, the amounts  
584 transferred pursuant to subdivision (1) of section 22C of chapter 32 of the General Laws shall be  
585 made available for the Commonwealth's Pension Liability Fund established in section 22 of said  
586 chapter 32. The amounts transferred pursuant to said subdivision (1) of said section 22C of said  
587 chapter 32 shall meet the commonwealth's obligations pursuant to said section 22C of said  
588 chapter 32, including retirement benefits payable by the state employees' retirement system and  
589 the state teachers' retirement system, for the costs associated with a 3 per cent cost-of-living  
590 adjustment pursuant to section 102 of said chapter 32, for the reimbursement of local retirement  
591 systems for previously authorized cost-of-living adjustments pursuant to said section 102 of said  
592 chapter 32 and for the costs of increased survivor benefits pursuant to chapter 389 of the acts of



1984. The state board of retirement and each city, town, county and district shall verify these costs, subject to rules that shall be adopted by the state treasurer. The state treasurer may make payments upon a transfer of funds to reimburse certain cities and towns for pensions of retired teachers, including any other obligation that the commonwealth has assumed on behalf of a retirement system other than the state employees' retirement system or state teachers' retirement system, including the commonwealth's share of the amounts to be transferred pursuant to section 22B of said chapter 32. The payments under this section shall be made only pursuant to distribution of money from the Commonwealth's Pension Liability Fund and any distribution, and the payments for which distributions are required, shall be detailed in a written report prepared quarterly by the secretary of administration and finance and submitted to the house and senate committees on ways and means and the joint committee on public service in advance of the distribution. Distributions shall not be made in advance of the date on which a payment is actually to be made. If the amount transferred pursuant to said subdivision (1) of said section 22C of said chapter 32 exceeds the amount necessary to adequately fund the annual pension obligations, the excess amount shall be credited to the Pension Reserves Investment Trust Fund established in subdivision (8) of said section 22 of said chapter 32 to reduce the unfunded pension liability of the commonwealth.

**SECTION 73.** Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, the unexpended balances in items 0699-0015 and 0699-9100 of section 2 shall be deposited into the State Retiree Benefits Trust Fund established in section 24 of chapter 32A of the General Laws before the certification of the fiscal year 2026 consolidated net surplus, pursuant to section 5C of chapter 29 of the General Laws. The amount deposited shall be an amount equal to 10 per cent of all payments received by the commonwealth in fiscal year 2026 under the master settlement agreement in *Commonwealth of Massachusetts v. Philip Morris, Inc. et al.*, Middlesex Superior Court, No. 95-7378; provided, however, that if in fiscal year 2026 the unexpended balances of said items 0699-0015 and 0699-9100 of said section 2 are less than 10 per cent of all payments received by the commonwealth in fiscal year 2026 under the master settlement agreement payments, an amount equal to the difference shall be transferred to the State Retiree Benefits Trust Fund from payments received by the commonwealth under the master settlement agreement.

**SECTION 74.** Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, prior to transferring the consolidated net surplus in the budgetary funds for fiscal year 2026 to the Commonwealth Stabilization Fund pursuant to section 5C of chapter 29 of the General Laws, the comptroller shall transfer \$14,000,000 from the General Fund to the Disaster Relief and Resiliency Fund established in section 2HHHHHH of said chapter 29.

**SECTION 75.** Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, the secretary of administration and finance, in consultation with the secretary of health and human services, may transfer not more than \$15,000,000 from the prescription advantage program in item 9110-1455 of section 2 and the Health Safety Net Trust Fund established in section 66 of chapter 118E of the General Laws in fiscal year 2026 to support the Medicare Saving or Medicare Buy-In programs established in section 25A of said chapter 118E; provided, however, that the secretary of health and human services shall certify to the house and senate committees on ways and means, not less than 45 days in advance of the transfer, in writing, the amount to be transferred

636 and an explanation of the amount of expected savings to those programs resulting from the  
637 transfer.

638 **SECTION 76.** Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, payments  
639 from the Health Safety Net Trust Fund established in section 66 of chapter 118E of the General  
640 Laws may be made either as safety net care payments under the commonwealth's waiver  
641 pursuant to section 1115 of the federal Social Security Act, 42 U.S.C. 1315, or as an adjustment  
642 to service rate payments under Titles XIX and XXI of the federal Social Security Act or a  
643 combination of both. Other federally permissible funding mechanisms available for certain  
644 hospitals, as defined by regulations of the executive office of health and human services, may be  
645 used to reimburse up to \$70,000,000 of uncompensated care pursuant to said section 66 and  
646 section 69 of said chapter 118E using sources distinct from the funding made available to the  
647 Health Safety Net Trust Fund.

648 **SECTION 77.** Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, not later than  
649 October 1, 2025, and without further appropriation, the comptroller shall transfer from the  
650 General Fund to the Health Safety Net Trust Fund established in section 66 of chapter 118E of  
651 the General Laws the greater of \$45,000,000 or 1/12 of the total expenditures to hospitals and  
652 community health centers required pursuant to this act, for the purposes of making initial gross  
653 payments to qualifying acute care hospitals for the hospital fiscal year beginning October 1,  
654 2025. These payments shall be made to hospitals before, and in anticipation of, the payment by  
655 hospitals of their gross liability to the Health Safety Net Trust Fund. Not later than June 30,  
656 2026, the comptroller shall transfer from the Health Safety Net Trust Fund to the General Fund  
657 the amount of the transfer authorized by this section and any allocation of that amount as  
658 certified by the director of the health safety net office established in section 65 of said chapter  
659 118E.

660 **SECTION 78.** Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, in hospital  
661 fiscal year 2026, the office of the inspector general may expend not more than \$1,000,000 from  
662 the Health Safety Net Trust Fund established in section 66 of chapter 118E of the General Laws  
663 for costs associated with maintaining a health safety net audit unit within the office. The unit  
664 shall continue to oversee and examine the practices in hospitals, including, but not limited to, the  
665 care of the uninsured and the resulting free charges. The unit shall also study and review the  
666 Medicaid program pursuant to said chapter 118E, including, but not limited to, a review of the  
667 program's eligibility requirements, utilization, claims administration and compliance with  
668 federal mandates. The inspector general shall submit a report to the chairs of the house and  
669 senate committees on ways and means on the results of the audits and any other completed  
670 analyses not later than March 1, 2026.

671 **SECTION 79.** Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, nursing  
672 facility rates effective on October 1, 2025, pursuant to section 13D of chapter 118E of the  
673 General Laws, may be developed using the costs of calendar year 2019.

674 **SECTION 80.** Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, the  
675 comptroller, at the direction of the secretary of administration and finance, may transfer not more  
676 than \$15,000,000 from the Commonwealth Care Trust Fund established in section 2000 of

677 chapter 29 of the General Laws to the Health Safety Net Trust Fund established in section 66 of  
678 chapter 118E of the General Laws.

679           **SECTION 81.** Sections 4, 5 and 24 to 26, inclusive, shall take effect on January 1, 2026.

680           **SECTION 82.** Section 22 shall take effect on August 1, 2025.

681           **SECTION 83.** Except as otherwise specified, this act shall take effect on July 1, 2025.