

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

MAJORITY REPORT

on the

INITIATIVE PETITION

of

MARVEN-RHODE HYPPOLITE AND OTHERS

for an

INITIATIVE AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION

TO PROVIDE RESOURCES FOR EDUCATION AND

TRANSPORTATION THROUGH AN ADDITIONAL TAX ON

INCOMES IN EXCESS OF ONE MILLION DOLLARS

(see House, No. 3933)

February 1, 2016

Joint Committee on Revenue

H.3933 Majority Report

The things that grow our economy and strengthen our communities are in desperate need of investment. Public college tuition and fees are increasing, and students are accumulating unsustainable debt. Many children don't get the pre-school education that is the key to later success. We have a large backlog of roads, bridges, tunnels, and public transit systems in serious need of repair.

But paying for these essential services runs up against an unfair tax system. Middle class families pay about 9% of household income in state and local taxes, while those earning more than \$1 million pay less than 5%. This fundamental unfairness is built into the Massachusetts Constitution.

This amendment would change that by creating an additional 4% tax on annual income over \$1 million. The revenue raised would be dedicated to investments in public education and transportation.

Massachusetts needs, and families deserve, good public schools and a transportation system that works for all of us. And we can easily afford these if those making over \$1 million per year will pay their fair share.

Signed:

Michael J. Rodrigues, Senate Chair	Jay R. Kaufman, House Chair
Sen. James E. Timilty, Vice Chair	Rep. Timothy J. Toomey, Jr., Vice Chair
Sen. Daniel A. Wolf	Rep. Denise Provost
Sen. Benjamin B. Downing	Rep. Alan Silvia
Sen. Eric P. Lesser	Rep. Thomas M. Stanley