

MassSenate
RESPONSE
2025

December 5, 2025

Dear Honorable Colleagues:

I am writing with an update on the Senate's **Response 2025** initiative. In April of this year, Senate President Spilka launched **Response 2025** to counter actions by the federal government that would have a significant negative impact on Massachusetts and its residents and tasked the Committee on Steering and Policy with leading this effort.

Since the launch, the committee has worked diligently to understand the rapidly changing landscape created by actions taken by both the Trump Administration and Congressional Republicans. We have worked to analyze this information in real time while remaining committed to the goal of *protecting our residents, defending our values, and leading the state* through these extremely difficult times caused by federal actions, some of which are directly targeted at states like Massachusetts. Senate President Spilka further tasked our committee to work with each of you to identify priorities of your committees and communities that achieve this purpose, elevate them, and expedite their being considered and signed into law.

As we reach the midpoint of this session, the Senate has taken significant steps as part of this initiative. Spanning a diverse array of policy areas, the Senate Committee on Steering and Policy has focused on actions that directly respond to gaps in our state's laws and concerns that have arisen due to federal policy changes.

These actions and policies reflect much of your work, along with your deep understanding of these issues and their importance. Some of these legislative initiatives have been straightforward and could be addressed with simple policy changes, while others are much more complex, including those that touch on many areas of law or present Constitutional challenges that impact what states can address. We have worked methodically and in partnership with experts and stakeholders to understand the role state government can play in response to federal actions and that can pass legal scrutiny, especially for these complex topics.

As we move forward into the second year of the 194th session, the Senate Committee on Steering and Policy will continue to work diligently to seek out policies and identify additional harmful, often unpredictable changes that occur at the federal level. The committee meets weekly, so if you have suggestions on policies the committee should consider, please feel free to reach out to a member of the committee and share your thoughts.

Through **Response 2025**, we are committed to helping the Senate protect our residents, defend our values, and lead our Commonwealth no matter what comes our way. We sincerely thank you for sharing your time, expertise, and partnership in this effort.

Sincerely, for the Committee,



Senator Cindy F. Friedman
Chair, Senate Committee on Steering and Policy

The list on the following pages outlines the current status of actions taken to date as part of the **Response 2025** initiative.

Active Military

AN ACT TO ENHANCE ACCESS, INCLUSION, SUPPORT AND EQUITY FOR MILITARY CONNECTED FAMILIES

Provides enhanced safety, stability and educational opportunities for military families.

Bill S.2709 | [Bill Text](#) | [Fact Sheet](#) | [Press Release](#) | Passed by the Senate on November 6, 2025

AN ACT CLARIFYING THE DUTIES OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL

Ensures a clear chain of command exists within the National Guard and that National Guard members receive training on how to identify whether orders violate Constitutional or statutory rights.

Bill S.2708 | [Bill Text](#) | [Fact Sheet](#) | [Press Release](#) | Passed by the Senate on November 6, 2025

Civil Rights, Constitutional Safeguards & Immigration

AN ACT AMENDING CERTAIN ARCHAIC LAWS

Removes offensive language from state statutes and repeals outdated, unconstitutional laws that impinge upon individuals' civil rights.

Bill S.2564 | [Bill Text](#) | [Fact Sheet](#) | [Press Release](#) | Passed by the Senate on July 24, 2025

2025 SUPPLEMENTAL BUDGET POLICY PROVISION ON NAME-CHANGE PETITIONS

Removing the automatic requirement of a public legal notice for name-change petitions filed in court.

Bill H.4761 | [Bill Text](#) | [Fact Sheet](#) | [Press Release](#) | Signed into law on November 25, 2025

FISCAL YEAR 2026 BUDGET FUNDING FOR IMMIGRANT LEGAL DEFENSE

Provides \$5 million to implement an immigration legal services program to increase access to legal representation, advice, and advocacy for immigrants and refugees who are facing enhanced legal threats from the federal government.

Bill H.4240 | [Bill Text](#) | [Press Release](#) | Signed into law on July 4, 2025

AN ACT REGARDING FREE EXPRESSION

Protects freedom of thought in Massachusetts schools and public libraries and safeguards open access to books and other educational materials.

Bill S.2726 | [Bill Text](#) | [Fact Sheet](#) | [Press Release](#) | Passed by the Senate on November 13, 2025

2025 SUPPLEMENTAL BUDGET POLICY PROVISION ON THE RIGHTS OF SCHOOLCHILDREN

Codifies protections for K-12 students who are English language learners.

Bill S.2575 | [Bill Text](#) | [Press Release](#) | Signed into law on August 5, 2025

RESOLUTIONS RESCINDING PREVIOUS ARTICLE V CONVENTION APPLICATIONS

Rescinds all prior Massachusetts calls for a federal Constitutional Convention under Article V of the U.S. Constitution.

Resolution S.2684 | [Resolution Text](#) | [Press Release](#) | Conveyed to the U.S. Congress on November 19, 2025

Consumer Protection & Public Safety

AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE MASSACHUSETTS DATA PRIVACY ACT

Establishes clear rights for Massachusetts residents regarding their personal data, including the right to know what information is being collected and the ability to opt out of having their data used for targeted advertising or sold to other companies.

Bill S.2619 | [Bill Text](#) | [Fact Sheet](#) | [Press Release](#) | Passed by the Senate on September 9, 2025

2025 SUPPLEMENTAL BUDGET POLICY PROVISION ON IMPERSONATION OF AN OFFICER

Criminalizes the impersonation of a federal officer and increases penalties for impersonating a public official, including a federal officer.

Bill H.4761 | [Bill Text](#) | [Fact Sheet](#) | [Press Release](#) | Signed into law on November 25, 2025

Health Care & Public Health

AN ACT STRENGTHENING HEALTH CARE PROTECTIONS IN THE COMMONWEALTH

Known as the *Shield Act 2.0*, fortifies protections for those seeking and providing reproductive and transgender care.

Bill S.2543 | [Bill Text](#) | [Press Release](#) | *Signed into law on August 7, 2025*

2025 SUPPLEMENTAL BUDGET FUNDING FOR MEDICAID OUTREACH

Allocates \$10 million to Health Care For All (HCFA) for a new outreach and education campaign on Medicaid work reporting requirements.

Bill H.4761 | [Bill Text](#) | [Fact Sheet](#) | [Press Release](#) | *Signed into law on November 25, 2025*

2025 SUPPLEMENTAL BUDGET POLICY PROVISION ON IMMUNIZATION STANDARDS

Grants authority to the Department of Public Health (DPH) Commissioner to determine routine childhood immunizations and vaccination schedules rather than relying on the recommendations of the CDC's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices.

Bill H.4761 | [Bill Text](#) | [Fact Sheet](#) | [Press Release](#) | *Signed into law on November 25, 2025*

Housing & Food Security

2025 SUPPLEMENTAL BUDGET POLICY PROVISION ON EVICTION AND FORECLOSURE

Protects federal employees from residential eviction or foreclosure during any federal shutdown.

Bill H.4761 | [Bill Text](#) | [Fact Sheet](#) | [Press Release](#) | *Signed into law on November 25, 2025*

FISCAL YEAR 2026 BUDGET POLICY PROVISION ON HOUSING CONSTRUCTION AFFORDABILITY

Studies how the removal of sales tax for certain housing supply items reduces housing construction costs, in response to pressures around tariffs.

Bill H.4240 | [Bill Text](#) | [Fact Sheet](#) | [Press Release](#) | *Signed into law on July 4, 2025*

2025 SUPPLEMENTAL BUDGET FUNDING FOR SNAP

Provides \$10 million for operational and technical enhancements at the Department of Transitional Assistance (DTA) to improve recipients' access to Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits with the aim of forestalling harmful federal cuts.

Bill H.4761 | [Bill Text](#) | [Fact Sheet](#) | [Press Release](#) | *Signed into law on November 25, 2025*