

1 **SECTION 4.** Section 25 of chapter 10 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2024 Official  
2 Edition, is hereby amended by inserting after the word “appropriation”, in line 13, the following  
3 words:- ; provided, however, that the commission may enter into contracts or group agreements  
4 for lottery games not currently or previously authorized by the commission, resulting in a  
5 contractor or licensor to be paid a specified percentage of net or gross revenues of such game, and  
6 such payments shall not be subject to appropriation.

7 **SECTION 5.** Section 10 of chapter 12A of the General Laws, as so appearing, is hereby  
8 amended by striking out, in lines 7 and 8, the words “When authorized by a majority vote of the  
9 inspector general council, the inspector general shall” and inserting in place thereof the following  
10 words:- The inspector general may.

11 **SECTION 6.** Said section 10 of said chapter 12A, as so appearing, is hereby further amended by  
12 inserting after the word “Any”, in line 11, the following words:- reports or.

13 **SECTION 7.** Section 17 of chapter 23N of the General Laws, as so appearing, is hereby amended  
14 by striking out, in line 7, the figure “17.5” and inserting in place thereof the following figure:- 10.

15 **SECTION 8.** Said section 17 of said chapter 23N, as so appearing, is hereby further amended by  
16 striking out, in lines 11 to 14, inclusive, clauses (4) and (5) and inserting in place thereof the  
17 following 3 clauses:-

18 (4) 1 per cent to the Youth Development and Achievement Fund established in section  
19 19;

20 (5) 9 per cent to the Public Health Trust Fund established in section 58 of chapter 23K;  
21 and

22 (6) 7.5 per cent to the Sports and Entertainment Events Fund established in section 13W  
23 of chapter 23A.

24 **SECTION 9.** Section 18 of said chapter 23N, as so appearing, is hereby amended by striking  
25 out, in line 5, the figure “16” and inserting in place thereof the following figure:- 17.

26 **SECTION 10.** Said section 18 of said chapter 23N, as so appearing, is hereby further amended  
27 by striking out subsection (b) and inserting in place thereof the following subsection:-

28 (b) The fund shall be administered by the secretary of economic development, in  
29 consultation with the secretary of labor and workforce development. Money in the fund shall be  
30 expended for the following purposes to support:

31 (i) existing workforce development programs administered by state agencies or quasi-  
32 public agencies that develop and strengthen workforce opportunities for low-income

33 communities, unemployed or underemployed individuals or vulnerable youth and young adults  
34 in the commonwealth;

35 (ii) internships, apprenticeships or other work-based learning programs or programs that  
36 provide vocational or professional training to address workforce skills gaps or workforce  
37 readiness in priority economic sectors; or

38 (iii) eligible recipients of competitive grants pursuant to subsection (c).

39 **SECTION 11.** Said section 18 of said chapter 23N, as so appearing, is hereby further amended  
40 by striking out, in line 25, the word “and” and inserting in place thereof the following word:- or.

41 **SECTION 12.** Said section 18 of said chapter 23N, as so appearing, is hereby further amended by  
42 inserting after the word “permits”, in line 31, the following word:- , apprenticeships.

43 **SECTION 13.** Said section 18 of said chapter 23N, as so appearing, is hereby further amended  
44 by striking out, in line 50, the words “housing and”.

45 **SECTION 14.** Section 5G of chapter 29 of the General Laws, as so appearing, is hereby amended  
46 by striking out, in lines 16 to 18, inclusive, the words “the average annual rate of growth in United  
47 States gross domestic product over the preceding 5 years based on the most recently available ”  
48 and inserting in place thereof the following words:- 95 per cent of the average of final certified  
49 capital gains tax revenues for the prior 10 fiscal years, including the most recently ended fiscal  
50 year, adjusted for inflation based on the most recently available national gross domestic product  
51 price index.

52 **SECTION 15.** Said chapter 29 is hereby further amended by inserting after section 5I the  
53 following section:-

54 Section 5J. The executive office for administration and finance, in consultation with the  
55 department of revenue, shall annually conduct a multi-year budget forecast and evaluate the  
56 potential prospective stress impacts of economic scenarios, to be determined by the secretary of  
57 administration and finance, for at least the next 3 fiscal years, including, but not limited to: (i)  
58 notable causes of potential deficiencies and key risk factors impacting the state budget; (ii)  
59 potential effects of economic changes on tax revenue collections and spending pressures; and (iii)  
60 the sufficiency of the Commonwealth Stabilization Fund established pursuant to section 2H and  
61 other reserve balances, as identified by the secretary, in offsetting potential revenue declines and  
62 spending pressures. Annually, not later than October 31, the executive office shall submit a report  
63 to the house and senate committees on ways and means with the results of the multi-year budget  
64 forecast and stress impact evaluation.

65 **SECTION 16.** Section 1 of chapter 32 of the General Laws, as most recently amended by  
66 section 21 of chapter 73 of the acts of 2025, is hereby further amended by inserting after the  
67 definition of “Constitutional officers” the following definition:-

68 “Cost of Living Reserve Fund”, a fund established in subdivision (6B) of section 22 to  
69 provide for the reservation of money for future cost of living liabilities and benefit payments of  
70 the retirement system; provided, that there shall be 1 fund for the state employees’ and teachers’  
71 retirement systems and 1 fund each for any retirement system that opts in pursuant to said  
72 subdivision (6B) of said section 22.

73 **SECTION 17.** Said section 1 of said chapter 32, as so amended, is hereby further amended by  
74 inserting after the definition of “Employer” the following definition:-

75 “Excess investment income”, the amount in any calendar year where all realized gains  
76 from invested funds of a retirement system results in earnings in excess of the investment return  
77 assumption set in the system’s most recent actuarial valuation. Such amount, in excess of said  
78 investment return assumption, shall be based on the market rate of return during a calendar year  
79 on the balance of total assets of the system at the close of business on December 31 of the prior  
80 calendar year, less the amount required to be derived by the investment return assumption set in  
81 said valuation. Not later than 90 days after the end of said calendar year, the relevant actuary of a  
82 system shall certify the total excess investment income of the system.

83 **SECTION 18.** Section 22 of said chapter 32, as appearing in the 2024 Official Edition, is hereby  
84 amended by striking out, in line 6, the word “seven”.

85 **SECTION 19.** Said section 22 of said chapter 32, as so appearing, is hereby further amended by  
86 striking out, in lines 9 and 10, the words “and the Commonwealth’s Pension Liability Fund” and  
87 inserting in place thereof the following words:- the Commonwealth’s Pension Liability Fund and  
88 the Cost of Living Reserve Fund.

89 **SECTION 20.** Paragraph (a) of subdivision (6) of said section 22 of said chapter 32, as so  
90 appearing, is hereby amended by adding the following clause:-

91 (vi) In any calendar year prior to making the transfers required by clause (iii), an amount  
92 equal to 10 per cent of the excess investment income shall be transferred to the Cost of Living  
93 Reserve Fund for the state employees’ and teachers’ retirement systems. For a system other than  
94 the state employees’ and teachers’ retirement systems that has accepted subdivision (6B), an  
95 amount equal to 10 per cent of the excess investment income shall be transferred to said system’s  
96 Cost of Living Reserve Fund.

97 **SECTION 21.** Said section 22 of said chapter 32, as so appearing, is hereby further amended by  
98 inserting after subdivision (6A) the following subdivision:-

99 (6B) Cost of Living Reserve Fund. – (a) There shall be: (i) a Cost of Living Reserve Fund  
100 for the state employees’ and teachers’ retirement system; and (ii) a Cost of Living Reserve Fund  
101 for each retirement system other than the state employees’ and teachers’ retirement systems that  
102 accepts this section pursuant to paragraph (b). The Cost of Living Reserve Funds shall be  
103 credited all amounts set aside by a system for the purpose of establishing a reserve to meet future  
104 cost of living liabilities and benefit payments as contained in sections 102 and 103, including  
105 such amounts as may be set aside pursuant to a funding schedule established in accordance with

106 section 22C or 22D. Such amounts shall include without limitation the amount determined to be  
107 excess investment income as provided for in clause (vi) of paragraph (a) of subdivision (6).

108 (b) For the purposes of this subdivision, “legislative body” shall mean: (i) in the case of a  
109 city, the city council in accordance with its charter; (ii) in the case of a town, the town meeting;  
110 (iii) in the case of a district, the district members; and (iv) in the case of an authority, the  
111 governing body. In the case of a city, town, district or authority retirement system, this  
112 subdivision shall take effect upon its acceptance by a majority vote of the board of such system,  
113 subject to the approval of the legislative body. In the case of a county or regional retirement  
114 system, this subdivision shall take effect upon its acceptance by the county or regional retirement  
115 board advisory council at a meeting called for that purpose by the county or regional retirement  
116 board. Acceptance of this subdivision shall be deemed to have occurred upon the filing of the  
117 certification of such vote with the commission. A decision to accept this subdivision shall not be  
118 revoked.

119 (c) This subdivision shall take effect automatically for the state employees’ and teachers’  
120 retirement systems.

121 **SECTION 22.** Subdivision (1) of section 22C of said chapter 32, as so appearing, is hereby  
122 amended by striking out the third paragraph and inserting in place thereof the following  
123 paragraph:-

124 Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, appropriations or transfers  
125 made to the Commonwealth’s Pension Liability Fund in fiscal years 2027 to 2029, inclusive,  
126 shall be made in accordance with the following funding schedule: (i) \$5,130,518,640 in fiscal  
127 year 2027; (ii) \$5,335,739,386 in fiscal year 2028; and (iii) \$5,549,168,961 in fiscal year 2029.  
128 Notwithstanding any provision of this subdivision to the contrary, any adjustments to these  
129 amounts shall be limited to increases in the schedule amounts for each of the specified years.

130 **SECTION 23.** Said chapter 32 is hereby further amended by inserting after section 65J the  
131 following section:-

132 Section 65K. Notwithstanding sections 65A to 65J, inclusive, or any other general or  
133 special law, rule or regulation to the contrary, a judge or justice who is eligible for retirement  
134 benefits pursuant to sections 65A to 65J, inclusive, shall be provided written notice by the  
135 retirement board upon entry into service that if they qualify as a veteran who served in the armed  
136 forces of the United States, they shall be entitled to credit for active service in the armed services  
137 of the United States; provided, however, that such active service shall not be credited until such  
138 member, prior to or within 1 year of vesting pursuant to this chapter, has paid into the annuity  
139 savings fund of such system, in 1 sum or in installments, upon such terms and conditions as the  
140 board may prescribe, makeup payments, for each year of creditable service sought, of an amount  
141 equal to 10 per cent of the regular annual compensation of the member when said member  
142 entered the retirement system; provided further, that such creditable service shall not be  
143 construed to include service for more than 4 years; and provided further, that such creditable  
144 service shall not be allowed for any period of active service for which said veteran has received  
145 credit pursuant to this section. This section shall apply to national guard and active reserve

146 personnel, both former and present. Creditable service time, both enlisted and commissioned,  
147 may be applied toward retirement on a ratio of 5 years of national guard service or 5 years of  
148 active reserve service substitutable for each year of active service. National guard and active  
149 reserve personnel shall not be precluded from making said purchase if they qualify as a veteran  
150 after vesting or if they reach the maximum of 4 years of eligible service purchase after vesting  
151 and qualifying as a veteran; provided, however, that they enter into a purchase agreement within  
152 5 years of the last occurring event.

153 **SECTION 24.** Section 102 of said chapter 32, as appearing in the 2024 Official Edition, is  
154 hereby amended by inserting after the word “years”, in line 48, the following words:- and any  
155 additional benefit paid in accordance with paragraph (h).

156 **SECTION 25.** Said section 102 of said chapter 32, as so appearing, is hereby further amended  
157 by adding the following 2 paragraphs:-

158 (h)(1) Every member of the state employees’ retirement system and the teachers’  
159 retirement system who has attained at least 10 full years of retirement as of June 30 of the prior  
160 fiscal year and receives a cost of living increase shall receive annually an additional \$100 benefit  
161 to said increase. Said \$100 benefit shall be granted only to members of the state employees’  
162 retirement system and the teachers’ retirement system who retired before July 1, 2020 with 20 or  
163 more years of creditable service and whose total annual retirement benefit is less than 80 per cent  
164 of the average annual salary as determined by the retirement system’s most recent actuarial  
165 valuation; provided, however, that those members who retired with a disability benefit under  
166 section 6, 7 or 26 shall be eligible with less than 20 years of creditable service. Any surviving  
167 beneficiary of a deceased member who would otherwise be eligible for the aforesaid additional  
168 benefit under this paragraph, including those beneficiaries receiving a benefit under section 9, 12  
169 or 101, shall receive said additional benefit if it is determined that they are eligible by the  
170 retirement board in which they are a participant.

171 (2) Every member of the state employees’ retirement system and the teachers’ retirement  
172 system who has attained at least 15 full years of retirement as of June 30 of the prior fiscal year  
173 and receives a cost of living increase shall receive annually an additional \$200 benefit to said  
174 increase. Said \$200 benefit shall be granted only to members of the state employees’ retirement  
175 system and the teachers’ retirement system who retired before July 1, 2020 with 20 or more  
176 years of creditable service and whose total annual retirement benefit is less than 80 per cent of  
177 the average annual salary as determined by the retirement system’s most recent actuarial  
178 valuation; provided, however, that those members who retired with a disability benefit under  
179 section 6, 7 or 26 shall be eligible with less than 20 years of creditable service. Any surviving  
180 beneficiary of a deceased member who would otherwise be eligible for the aforesaid additional  
181 benefit under this paragraph, including those beneficiaries receiving a benefit under section 9, 12  
182 or 101, shall receive said additional benefit if it is determined that they are eligible by the  
183 retirement board in which they are a participant.

184 (3) Every member of the state employees’ retirement system and the teachers’ retirement  
185 system who has attained at least 20 full years of retirement as of June 30 of the prior fiscal year  
186 and receives a cost of living increase shall receive annually an additional \$300 benefit to said

187 increase. Said \$300 benefit shall be granted only to members of the state employees' retirement  
188 system and the teachers' retirement system who retired before July 1, 2020 with 20 or more  
189 years of creditable service and whose total annual retirement benefit is less than 80 per cent of  
190 the average annual salary as determined by the retirement system's most recent actuarial  
191 valuation; provided, however, that those members who retired with a disability benefit under  
192 section 6, 7 or 26 shall be eligible with less than 20 years of creditable service. Any surviving  
193 beneficiary of a deceased member who would otherwise be eligible for the aforesaid additional  
194 benefit under this paragraph, including those beneficiaries receiving a benefit under section 9, 12  
195 or 101, shall receive said additional benefit if it is determined that they are eligible by the  
196 retirement board in which they are a participant.

197 (i) In any calendar year, if the actuary determines that there is excess investment income  
198 where all realized gains from invested funds of the retirement systems results in earnings in  
199 excess of the investment return assumption set in the retirement system's most recent actuarial  
200 valuation and if it is further determined that 10 per cent of such amount when added to the Cost  
201 of Living Reserve Fund existing balance is in excess of the amount necessary to fund the total  
202 liabilities of a \$1,000 base increase, then the base used to determine the cost of living increase  
203 shall be increased for the retirement systems by an amount of not less than \$1,000 in the next  
204 fiscal year following the determination of excess earnings; provided, however, that the amounts  
205 credited to the Cost of Living Reserve Fund under subdivision (6B) of section 22 shall be in  
206 excess of the amounts necessary to meet future cost of living liabilities and benefit payments  
207 attributable to said increase and in excess of the amount necessary to fund the total liabilities of  
208 the additional benefit under paragraph (h).

209 **SECTION 26.** Section 103 of said chapter 32, as so appearing, is hereby amended by inserting  
210 after the word "applied", in line 51, the following words:- , including any additional benefit paid  
211 in accordance with paragraphs (k), (l) and (m).

212 **SECTION 27.** Said section 103 of said chapter 32, as so appearing, is hereby further amended  
213 by adding the following 4 paragraphs:-

214 (k) Upon acceptance of this paragraph as provided in paragraph (n), every member of a  
215 retirement system other than the state employees' retirement system and the teachers' retirement  
216 system, who has attained at least 10 full years of retirement as of June 30 of the prior fiscal year  
217 and receives a cost of living increase pursuant to this section, shall receive annually an additional  
218 \$100 benefit to said increase. Said \$100 benefit shall be granted only to members of a retirement  
219 system, other than the state employees' retirement system and the teachers' retirement system,  
220 who retired before July 1, 2020 with 20 or more years of creditable service and whose total  
221 annual retirement benefit is less than 80 per cent of the average annual salary as determined by  
222 their retirement system's most recent actuarial valuation; provided, however, that those members  
223 who retired with a disability benefit under section 6, 7 or 26 shall be eligible with less than 20  
224 years of creditable service. Any surviving beneficiary of a deceased member who would  
225 otherwise be eligible for the aforesaid additional benefit under this paragraph, including those  
226 beneficiaries receiving a benefit under section 9, 12 or 101, shall receive said additional benefit  
227 if it is determined that they are eligible by the retirement board in which they are a participant.

228 (l) Upon acceptance of this paragraph as provided in paragraph (n), every member of a  
229 retirement system other than the state employees' retirement system and the teachers' retirement  
230 system, who has attained at least 15 full years of retirement as of June 30 of the prior fiscal year  
231 and receives a cost of living increase pursuant to this section, shall receive annually an additional  
232 \$200 benefit to said increase. Said \$200 benefit shall be granted only to members of a retirement  
233 system, other than the state employees' retirement system and the teachers' retirement system,  
234 who retired before July 1, 2020 with 20 or more years of creditable service and whose total  
235 annual retirement benefit is less than 80 per cent of the average annual salary as determined by  
236 their retirement system's most recent actuarial valuation; provided, however, that those members  
237 who retired with a disability benefit under section 6, 7 or 26 shall be eligible with less than 20  
238 years of creditable service. Any surviving beneficiary of a deceased member who would  
239 otherwise be eligible for the aforesaid additional benefit under this paragraph, including those  
240 beneficiaries receiving a benefit under section 9, 12 or 101, shall receive said additional benefit  
241 if it is determined that they are eligible by the retirement board in which they are a participant.

242 (m) Upon acceptance of this paragraph as provided in paragraph (n), every member of a  
243 retirement system other than the state employees' retirement system and the teachers' retirement  
244 system, who has attained at least 20 full years of retirement as of June 30 of the prior fiscal year  
245 and receives a cost of living increase pursuant to this section, shall receive annually an additional  
246 \$300 benefit to said increase. Said \$300 benefit shall be granted only to members of a retirement  
247 system, other than the state employees' retirement system and the teachers' retirement system,  
248 who retired before July 1, 2020 with 20 or more years of creditable service and whose total  
249 annual retirement benefit is less than 80 per cent of the average annual salary as determined by  
250 their retirement system's most recent actuarial valuation; provided, however, that those members  
251 who retired with a disability benefit under section 6, 7 or 26 shall be eligible with less than 20  
252 years of creditable service. Any surviving beneficiary of a deceased member who would  
253 otherwise be eligible for the aforesaid additional benefit under this paragraph, including those  
254 beneficiaries receiving a benefit under section 9, 12 or 101, shall receive said additional benefit  
255 if it is determined that they are eligible by the retirement board in which they are a participant.

256 (n) For the purpose of this paragraph, "legislative body" shall mean: (i) in the case of a  
257 city, the city council in accordance with its charter; (ii) in the case of a town, the town meeting;  
258 (iii) in the case of a district, the district members; and (iv) in the case of an authority, the  
259 governing body. In the case of city, town, district or authority system, acceptance of paragraphs  
260 (k), (l) or (m) shall be by a majority vote of the board of such system, subject to the approval of  
261 the legislative body. In the case of a county or regional system, acceptance of paragraphs (k), (l)  
262 or (m) shall be by the county or regional retirement board advisory council at a meeting called  
263 for that purpose by the county or regional retirement board. Acceptance of this paragraph shall  
264 be deemed to have occurred upon the filing of the certification of such vote with the commission.  
265 A decision to accept this paragraph shall not be revoked.

266 **SECTION 28.** Chapter 32A of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after section  
267 17Z the following section:-

268 Section 17AA. (a) As used in this section, the following words shall, unless the context  
269 clearly requires otherwise, have the following meanings:

270 “Cost sharing”, a deductible, coinsurance, copayments and any maximum limitation on  
271 the application of such a deductible, coinsurance, copayment or similar out-of-pocket expense.

272 “Health care provider”, as defined in section 1 of chapter 111.

273 “HIV”, human immunodeficiency virus.

274 “HIV prevention drug”, any pre-exposure prophylaxis drug approved for the prevention  
275 of HIV by the federal Food and Drug Administration, including any ancillary or support health  
276 service determined by the secretary of health and human services to be necessary to: (i) ensure  
277 that a drug is prescribed or administered to a person who is not infected with HIV and has no  
278 medical contraindications to the use of a drug; and (ii) monitor a person to ensure the safe and  
279 effective ongoing use of a drug through: (A) office visits; (B) laboratory testing; (C) testing for a  
280 sexually transmitted infection; (D) medication self-management and adherence counseling; or  
281 (E) any other health service specified as part of comprehensive HIV prevention drug services by  
282 the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, the federal Centers for Disease Control and  
283 Prevention, the United States Preventive Services Task Force or an equivalent state-authorized  
284 body with responsibility to identify health services that are components of comprehensive HIV  
285 prevention drug services.

286 (b) The commission shall provide any active or retired employee of the commonwealth,  
287 insured under the commission, coverage for an HIV prevention drug. There shall be no: (i)  
288 patient cost sharing; or (ii) prior authorization, step therapy or any other protocol that could  
289 restrict or delay the dispensing of any HIV prevention drug.

290 (c) The commission shall not refuse, reject or deny a prescription for any covered HIV  
291 prevention drug on the basis of the type of health care provider issuing the prescription for an  
292 HIV prevention drug or the venue or practice setting of the health care provider issuing the  
293 prescription; provided, that the health care provider shall be licensed to prescribe medications.

294 **SECTION 29.** Section 97B1/2 of chapter 41 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2024  
295 Official Edition, is hereby amended by inserting after the word “cases”, in line 20, the following  
296 words:- ; provided, however, that all kits shall be retained for not less than 15 years.

297 **SECTION 30.** Said section 97B1/2 of said chapter 41, as so appearing, is hereby further  
298 amended by inserting after the word “enforcement”, in line 26, the following words:- ,  
299 notwithstanding the statute of limitations of the underlying offense.

300 **SECTION 31.** Section 5A of chapter 71B of the General Laws, as so appearing, is hereby  
301 amended by inserting after the definition of “Approved costs threshold” the following  
302 definition:-

303 “Detailed cost components”, a breakdown of costs on either a per-trip or per-invoice  
304 basis that shall include, but shall not be limited to: (i) labor; (ii) capital or fleet and vehicle

305 acquisition; (iii) fuel and vehicle maintenance; (iv) insurance; (v) overhead; (vi) profit; and (vii)  
306 other costs that make up the total amount being charged to the school districts.

307 **SECTION 32.** Said section 5A of said chapter 71B, as so appearing, is hereby further amended  
308 by inserting after subsection (b) the following subsection:-

309 (b<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>)(1) Each school district providing required out-of-district transportation pursuant to  
310 subsection (b) shall include, in each district's solicitation documents, a breakdown of detailed  
311 cost components.

312 (2) Each vendor shall include detailed cost components in their submissions to each  
313 school district for bids or quotes in the competitive procurement process. The detailed cost  
314 components shall be included in: (i) the contract between the school district and the vendor; and  
315 (ii) all future invoices.

316 (3) Annually, each school district shall submit the detailed cost components to the  
317 department in its annual report. The department shall analyze the detailed cost components and  
318 report to the chairs of the joint committee on education cost trends for out-of-district  
319 transportation.

320 **SECTION 33.** Said chapter 71B is hereby further amended by inserting after section 5A the  
321 following section:-

322 Section 5A 1/2. (a)(1) The department shall establish and maintain an electronic  
323 centralized database of procurement and contract documents for all out-of-district transportation  
324 pursuant to subsection (b) of section 5A and a list of licensed special education out-of-district  
325 school transportation providers under contract with districts pursuant to section 5A. The database  
326 shall be searchable and accessible to all districts. The database shall include, but shall not be  
327 limited to: (i) copies of each procurement document and signed contract provided pursuant to  
328 paragraph (2); and (ii) transportation vendor information, including, but not limited to,  
329 compliance history, the areas where service is provided, ownership structure and contract history  
330 with any district.

331 (2) Each district shall submit a copy of each procurement document and signed contract  
332 to the department not later than 30 days after the contract is signed. Not later than 30 days after  
333 receipt, the department shall add each document to the database established in paragraph (1).

334 (b)(1) The department shall establish and annually update guidelines for districts on best  
335 practices for school transportation procurement, including, but not limited to, out-of-district  
336 transportation. The guidelines shall include, but shall not be limited to: (i) information on laws  
337 and regulations impacting transportation requirements; (ii) best practices for managing costs; (iii)  
338 transportation planning and operations; and (iv) managing reimbursement requests. In  
339 establishing and updating the guidelines, the department shall consult with the districts with the  
340 highest utilization rates and highest costs of out-of-district transportation.

341 (2) The guidelines established in paragraph (1) shall be available to all districts on the  
342 department's website; provided, however, that the department shall annually identify and provide  
343 the guidelines and additional assistance, as determined by the department, to: (i) the 20 districts  
344 with the highest out-of-district transportation costs; and (ii) any district where transportation is  
345 contributing to underperformance and inequity.

346 **SECTION 34.** Chapter 111 of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after section  
347 110E the following section:-

348 Section 110F. (a) Not later than 30 days after a family's entry into a temporary  
349 emergency assistance shelter pursuant to section 30 of chapter 23B, domestic violence shelter,  
350 substance use disorder and recovery shelter or non-emergency assistance shelter, any child under  
351 the age of 3 years old shall be referred to a certified early intervention professional for an early  
352 intervention evaluation and assessment, pursuant to the department's early intervention  
353 operational standards. The referral shall be made by shelter staff, case managers, medical  
354 providers or others. If applicable, early intervention services shall be rendered once an evaluation  
355 and determination of need have been established by a certified early intervention professional.

356 (b) The department, in consultation with the executive office of housing and livable  
357 communities, shall promulgate regulations pursuant to chapter 30A to implement this section.

358 **SECTION 35.** Said chapter 111 is hereby further amended by adding the following section:-

359 Section 250. (a) There shall be a commission on acupuncture and wellness within the  
360 department. The commission shall consist of: the commissioner or a designee, who shall serve as  
361 chair; the commissioner of insurance or a designee; the director of MassHealth or a designee; the  
362 executive director of the board of registration in medicine or a designee; the chairs of the joint  
363 committee on public health or their designees; a member representing a statewide organization of  
364 licensed acupuncturists; a member representing a statewide organization of medical  
365 acupuncturists; a member representing the Massachusetts Public Health Association; and 5  
366 members to be appointed by the governor, at least 2 of whom shall be acupuncturists licensed  
367 and practicing in the commonwealth, 1 of whom shall represent 1 of the top 5 health insurance  
368 companies in the commonwealth according to market share, 1 of whom shall represent a health  
369 care consumer organization and 1 of whom shall be a licensed physician currently practicing in  
370 the commonwealth.

371 (b) The commission on acupuncture and wellness shall investigate and comprehensively  
372 study the potential for greater integrated use of acupuncture services in health care services, to  
373 expand access, reduce health care costs and provide improved quality of care to residents of the  
374 commonwealth.

375 (c) The commission shall consider strategies:

376 (i) to evaluate and implement effective integration of acupuncture services in health care  
377 delivery in the commonwealth with a specific focus on interventions in pain management,  
378 substance use disorder treatment and wellness promotion;

379 (ii) to effectively integrate acupuncture treatment modalities into alternative payment  
380 models, including, but not limited to, accountable care organizations, workplace wellness  
381 programs and provider organizations established under chapter 224 of the acts of 2012; and

382 (iii) regarding the reimbursement of licensed acupuncturists via third party payors or  
383 otherwise to facilitate a stable and sustainable integration of acupuncture services into the  
384 broader system of health care delivery.

385 (d) Annually, not later than January 1, the commission shall submit to the secretary of  
386 health and human services and the joint committee on public health a report of its findings,  
387 recommendations and any draft legislation to implement those recommendations.

388 **SECTION 36.** Chapter 118E of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after section  
389 10Z the following section:-

390 Section 10AA. (a) As used in this section, the following words shall, unless the context  
391 clearly requires otherwise, have the following meanings:

392 “Health care provider”, as defined in section 1 of chapter 111.

393 “HIV”, human immunodeficiency virus.

394 “HIV prevention drug”, any pre-exposure prophylaxis drug approved for the prevention  
395 of HIV by the federal Food and Drug Administration, including any ancillary or support health  
396 service determined by the secretary of health and human services to be necessary to: (i) ensure  
397 that a drug is prescribed or administered to a person who is not infected with HIV and has no  
398 medical contraindications to the use of a drug; and (ii) monitor a person to ensure the safe and  
399 effective ongoing use of a drug through: (A) office visits; (B) laboratory testing; (C) testing for a  
400 sexually transmitted infection; (D) medication self-management and adherence counseling; or  
401 (E) any other health service specified as part of comprehensive HIV prevention drug services by  
402 the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, the federal Centers for Disease Control and  
403 Prevention, the United States Preventive Services Task Force or an equivalent state-authorized  
404 body with responsibility to identify health services that are components of comprehensive HIV  
405 prevention drug services.

406 (b) The division and its contracted health insurers, health plans, health maintenance  
407 organizations, behavioral health management firms and third-party administrators under contract  
408 to a Medicaid managed care organization, accountable care organization or primary care  
409 clinician plan shall provide coverage for an HIV prevention drug. There shall be no: (i) patient  
410 cost sharing; or (ii) prior authorization, step therapy or any other protocol that could restrict or  
411 delay the dispensing of any HIV prevention drug.

412 (c) The division and its contracted health insurers, health plans, health maintenance  
413 organizations, behavioral health management firms and third party administrators under contract  
414 to a Medicaid managed care organization, accountable care organization or primary care

415 clinician plan shall not refuse, reject or deny a prescription for any covered HIV prevention drug  
416 on the basis of the type of health care provider issuing the prescription for an HIV prevention  
417 drug or the venue or practice setting of the health care provider issuing the prescription;  
418 provided, that the health care provider shall be licensed to prescribe medications.

419 **SECTION 37.** The second paragraph of section 24 of chapter 119 of the General Laws, as  
420 appearing in the 2024 Official Edition, is hereby amended by striking out the fifth sentence and  
421 inserting in place thereof the following sentence:- If the identity or whereabouts of a parent is  
422 unknown, the petitioner shall, upon motion and with leave of the court, cause notice to be served  
423 upon such parent by: (i) publication once in each of 3 successive weeks in any newspaper as the  
424 court may order; (ii) publication on a website designed for such purpose for 3 successive weeks;  
425 or (iii) through electronic means reasonably calculated to reach the parent as found by the court.

426 **SECTION 38.** Chapter 127 of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after section  
427 17D the following section:-

428           Section 17E. (a) As used in this section, the following words shall, unless the context  
429 clearly requires otherwise, have the following meanings:

430           “County correctional facility”, as defined in paragraph (f) of section 1 of chapter 125.

431           “Health care provider”, as defined in section 1 of chapter 111.

432           “HIV”, human immunodeficiency virus.

433           “HIV prevention drug”, any pre-exposure prophylaxis drug approved for the prevention  
434 of HIV by the federal Food and Drug Administration.

435           (b) The superintendent of each state correctional facility and the administrator of each  
436 county correctional facility shall ensure that within a reasonable time prior to release each inmate  
437 of a state correctional facility and county correctional facility who has been committed to a term  
438 of 30 days or more, and who is negative for HIV infection, shall be:

439           (i) provided information and counseling about HIV prevention drugs to prevent HIV  
440 acquisition;

441           (ii) evaluated for the benefit of an HIV prevention drug, with the consent of the inmate;

442           (iii) provided with a supply of an HIV prevention drug prior to release, to an eligible  
443 inmate with their consent; provided, that the supply of an HIV prevention drug shall, at the  
444 inmate’s option, include administration immediately prior to release of the longest duration  
445 injectable form of an HIV prevention drug, a 90-day supply of an oral HIV prevention drug, any  
446 other clinically appropriate HIV prevention drug or a prescription for such supply to be filled  
447 post-release; and

448 (iv) provided with information about requirements for medical monitoring after release to  
449 ensure the safe and effective ongoing use of HIV prevention drugs; provided, that each state  
450 correctional facility and county correctional facility shall develop and implement a plan to  
451 connect each inmate receiving an HIV prevention drug to post-release medical and other services  
452 to ensure ongoing HIV prevention therapy upon release.

453 (c) Any pre-release supply of an HIV prevention drug shall be provided at no cost to the  
454 inmate.

455 (d) Each state correctional facility and county correctional facility evaluating an inmate  
456 for an HIV prevention drug pursuant to subsection (b) shall ensure that information obtained for  
457 such evaluation shall be kept confidential between the inmate and medical provider and shall not  
458 be shared with security or administrative staff.

459 (e) The department of correction, in consultation with the department of public health,  
460 shall promulgate regulations or issue guidance for the implementation of this section.

461 **SECTION 39.** Chapter 138 of the General Laws is hereby amended by striking out section 19G,  
462 as appearing in the 2024 Official Edition, and inserting in place thereof the following section:-

463 Section 19G. (a) For the purposes of this section, the following words shall, unless the  
464 context clearly requires otherwise, have the following meanings:

465 “Brewery of origin”, any brewery at which a tenant brewer is duly licensed to  
466 manufacture malt beverages other than at the host brewer’s premises.

467 “Distillery of origin”, any distillery at which a tenant distiller is duly licensed to  
468 manufacture distilled spirits other than at the host distiller’s premises.

469 “Package”, a keg, cask, barrel, bottle, can or other container approved by the United  
470 States Department of the Treasury Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau for malt  
471 beverages or distilled spirits.

472 (b)(1) The commission may issue tenant brewer or tenant distiller licenses that authorize  
473 the licensee to manufacture or package malt beverages or distilled spirits, respectively, on the  
474 premises of a host brewery or host distillery to any individual applicant who is a resident and  
475 citizen of the commonwealth or to a corporation, partnership or other entity which complies with  
476 the requirements of section 26 and is a holder of a certificate of compliance issued pursuant to  
477 section 18B. An applicant for a tenant brewer or tenant distiller license shall provide the  
478 commission and the department of revenue with a true copy of the applicable alcoholic beverage  
479 notice, permit or registration to manufacture, export and import as issued by the appropriate  
480 licensing authority.

481 (2) To be eligible for a tenant brewer or tenant distiller license, the applicant shall: (i) be  
482 licensed pursuant to section 18, section 19 or section 19C or a license holder outside the  
483 commonwealth that is authorized to manufacture, export and import malt beverages or distilled

484 spirits, respectively; (ii) comply with any federal law regulating the manufacture, export or  
485 import of malt beverages or distilled spirits, respectively, as identified by the commission in a  
486 written guidance that shall be issued to each host brewer, tenant brewer, host distiller, tenant  
487 distiller and wholesaler licensed pursuant to section 18; and (iii) shall have an approved  
488 alternating proprietorship arrangement that allows the applicant to use the facilities, equipment  
489 and employees of a host brewer or host distiller.

490 (3) A tenant brewer or tenant distiller may import such raw materials as are required  
491 solely for the production and packaging of the malt beverages or distilled spirits, respectively,  
492 including, without limitation, bulk malt beverages or bulk distilled spirits produced by the tenant  
493 brewer or tenant distiller, respectively, at its brewery or distillery of origin. The bulk malt  
494 beverages imported by the tenant brewer and bulk distilled spirits imported by the tenant distiller  
495 shall be packaged and shipped back to the tenant brewer's brewery of origin or tenant distiller's  
496 distillery of origin, or to a wholesaler licensed pursuant to section 18 or to a license holder  
497 outside the commonwealth authorized to import malt beverages or distilled spirits designated by  
498 the tenant brewer or tenant distiller within 10 days after receipt by the host brewer or host  
499 distiller, or, in the case of a tenant distiller who is licensed as a wholesaler under section 18 and  
500 operates as a rectifier, to a retailer in the commonwealth licensed to sell distilled spirits at retail.

501 (4) Any product produced or packaged at the host brewer's or host distiller's premises  
502 shall be removed from such premises within 10 days after the production or packaging process is  
503 completed. The finished product shall be returned to the tenant brewer's brewery of origin or  
504 tenant distiller's distillery of origin, or to a wholesaler licensed pursuant to section 18 or to a  
505 license holder outside the commonwealth authorized to import malt beverages or distilled spirits  
506 designated by the tenant brewer or tenant distiller, or in the case of a tenant distiller who is  
507 licensed as a wholesaler under section 18 and operates as a rectifier, to a retailer in the  
508 commonwealth licensed to sell distilled spirits at retail.

509 (c)(1) The commission shall require a tenant brewer and tenant distiller and a host brewer  
510 and host distiller to maintain a record or log indicating which equipment is being used at any  
511 time by the tenant brewer or tenant distiller in the production or packaging of malt beverages or  
512 distilled spirits, respectively, and which employees are working on production or packaging of  
513 the tenant brewer's or tenant distiller's product. Tenant brewers and tenant distillers shall be  
514 subject to the same reporting requirements as host brewers and host distillers.

515 (2) A tenant brewer license and tenant distiller license issued pursuant to this section shall  
516 not authorize the licensee to sell malt beverages or distilled spirits, respectively, to any person or  
517 entity in the commonwealth other than a wholesaler licensed pursuant to section 18; provided,  
518 however, that a tenant distiller who is licensed as a wholesaler under section 18 and operates as a  
519 rectifier may sell to a retailer in the commonwealth licensed to sell distilled spirits at retail. A  
520 tenant brewer licensee and tenant distiller licensee shall only be authorized to manufacture or  
521 package malt beverages or distilled spirits, respectively, pursuant to this section.

522 (d) The annual fee for a license issued under this section shall be \$1,000.

523 **SECTION 40.** Chapter 175 of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after section  
524 47CCC the following section:-

525 Section 47DDD. (a) As used in this section, the following words shall, unless the context  
526 clearly requires otherwise, have the following meanings:

527 “Cost sharing”, a deductible, coinsurance, copayment and any maximum limitation on the  
528 application of such a deductible, coinsurance, copayment or similar out-of-pocket expense.

529 “Health care provider”, as defined in section 1 of chapter 111.

530 “HIV”, human immunodeficiency virus.

531 “HIV prevention drug”, any pre-exposure prophylaxis drug approved for the prevention  
532 of HIV by the federal Food and Drug Administration, including any ancillary or support health  
533 service determined by the secretary of health and human services to be necessary to: (i) ensure  
534 that a drug is prescribed or administered to a person who is not infected with HIV and has no  
535 medical contraindications to the use of a drug; and (ii) monitor a person to ensure the safe and  
536 effective ongoing use of a drug through: (A) office visits; (B) laboratory testing; (C) testing for a  
537 sexually transmitted infection; (D) medication self-management and adherence counseling; or  
538 (E) any other health service specified as part of comprehensive HIV prevention drug services by  
539 the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, the federal Centers for Disease Control and  
540 Prevention, the United States Preventive Services Task Force or an equivalent state-authorized  
541 body with responsibility to identify health services that are components of comprehensive HIV  
542 prevention drug services.

543 (b) Any policy of accident and sickness insurance, as described in section 108, that  
544 provides hospital expense and surgical expense insurance that is delivered, issued or  
545 subsequently renewed by agreement between the insurer and policyholder in the commonwealth  
546 and any group blanket or general policy of accident and sickness insurance, issued under section  
547 110, that provides hospital expense and surgical expense insurance and that is delivered, issued  
548 or subsequently renewed by agreement between the insurer and the policyholder, within or  
549 without the commonwealth, that provides coverage for any HIV prevention drug shall not  
550 require: (i) patient cost sharing; or (ii) prior authorization, step therapy or any other protocol that  
551 could restrict or delay the dispensing of any HIV prevention drug.

552 (c) Any policy of accident and sickness insurance, as described in section 108, that  
553 provides hospital expense and surgical expense insurance that is delivered, issued or  
554 subsequently renewed by agreement between the insurer and policyholder in the commonwealth  
555 and any group blanket or general policy of accident and sickness insurance, issued under section  
556 110, that provides hospital expense and surgical expense insurance and that is delivered, issued  
557 or subsequently renewed by agreement between the insurer and the policyholder, within or  
558 without the commonwealth, that provides coverage for any HIV prevention drug shall not refuse,  
559 reject or deny a prescription for any covered HIV prevention drug on the basis of the type of  
560 health care provider issuing the prescription for an HIV prevention drug or the venue or practice

561 setting of the health care provider issuing the prescription; provided, that the health care provider  
562 shall be licensed to prescribe medications.

563 **SECTION 41.** Section 7 of chapter 175M of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2024 Official  
564 Edition, is hereby amended by striking out, in line 6, the words “and for the administration of the  
565 department” and inserting in place thereof the following words:- for the administration of the  
566 department and for expenditure by the Workforce Productivity Sub-Fund under section 12.

567 **SECTION 42.** Said section 7 of said chapter 175M, as so appearing, is hereby further amended  
568 by striking out, in line 23, the words “and for the administration of the department” and inserting  
569 in place thereof the following words:- for the administration of the department and for  
570 expenditure by the Workforce Productivity Sub-Fund under section 12.

571 **SECTION 43.** Said chapter 175M is hereby further amended by adding the following section:-

572           Section 12. (a) For the purposes of this section, the term “eligible applicant” shall mean  
573 an employer employing 50 or fewer employees in the commonwealth; provided, that “eligible  
574 applicant” shall not include an employer with a plan approved pursuant to section 11.

575           (b) There is hereby established a Workforce Productivity Sub-Fund within the Family  
576 and Employment Security Trust Fund established in section 7. Money in the Workforce  
577 Productivity Sub-Fund shall be expended by the director for the grant program established  
578 pursuant to subsection (c).

579           (c)(1) There is hereby established a grant program to support eligible applicants with  
580 costs associated with covering a temporary vacancy due to an employee being on an approved  
581 continuous leave.

582           (2) Eligible applicants may apply for a grant pursuant to this subsection in a form and  
583 manner prescribed by the department.

584           (3) The department shall competitively award grants to eligible applicants.

585           (d) The director shall promulgate regulations or other guidance necessary for the  
586 implementation of this section, including, but not limited to, grant eligibility criteria, how grants  
587 will be competitively awarded, amounts of the grants and other information necessary for the  
588 administration of the grant program pursuant to subsection (c).

589 **SECTION 44.** Chapter 176A of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after section  
590 8DDD the following section:-

591           Section 8EEE. (a) As used in this section, the following words shall, unless the context  
592 clearly requires otherwise, have the following meanings:

593           “Cost sharing”, a deductible, coinsurance, copayment and any maximum limitation on the  
594 application of such a deductible, coinsurance, copayment or similar out-of-pocket expense.

595 “Health care provider”, as defined in section 1 of chapter 111.

596 “HIV”, human immunodeficiency virus.

597 “HIV prevention drug”, any pre-exposure prophylaxis drug approved for the prevention  
598 of HIV by the federal Food and Drug Administration, including any ancillary or support health  
599 service determined by the secretary of health and human services to be necessary to: (i) ensure  
600 that a drug is prescribed or administered to a person who is not infected with HIV and has no  
601 medical contraindications to the use of a drug; and (ii) monitor a person to ensure the safe and  
602 effective ongoing use of a drug through: (A) office visits; (B) laboratory testing; (C) testing for a  
603 sexually transmitted infection; (D) medication self-management and adherence counseling; or  
604 (E) any other health service specified as part of comprehensive HIV prevention drug services by  
605 the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, the federal Centers for Disease Control and  
606 Prevention, the United States Preventive Services Task Force or an equivalent state-authorized  
607 body with responsibility to identify health services that are components of comprehensive HIV  
608 prevention drug services.

609 (b) Any contract between a subscriber and the corporation under an individual or group  
610 hospital service plan that provides hospital expense and surgical expense insurance, except  
611 contracts providing supplemental coverage to Medicare or other governmental programs, that is  
612 delivered, issued or renewed by agreement between the insurer and the policyholder, within or  
613 without the commonwealth, that provides coverage for any HIV prevention drug shall not  
614 require: (i) patient cost sharing; or (ii) prior authorization, step therapy or any other protocol that  
615 could restrict or delay the dispensing of any HIV prevention drug.

616 (c) Any contract between a subscriber and the corporation under an individual or group  
617 hospital service plan that provides hospital expense and surgical expense insurance, except  
618 contracts providing supplemental coverage to Medicare or other governmental programs, that is  
619 delivered, issued or renewed by agreement between the insurer and the policyholder, within or  
620 without the commonwealth, that provides coverage for any HIV prevention drug shall not refuse,  
621 reject or deny a prescription for any covered HIV prevention drug on the basis of the type of  
622 health care provider issuing the prescription for an HIV prevention drug or the venue or practice  
623 setting of the health care provider issuing the prescription; provided, that the health care provider  
624 shall be licensed to prescribe medications.

625 **SECTION 45.** Chapter 176B of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after section  
626 4DDD the following section:-

627 Section 4EEE. (a) As used in this section, the following words shall, unless the context  
628 clearly requires otherwise, have the following meanings:

629 “Cost sharing”, a deductible, coinsurance, copayment and any maximum limitation on the  
630 application of such a deductible, coinsurance, copayment or similar out-of-pocket expense.

631 “Health care provider”, as defined in section 1 of chapter 111.

632 “HIV”, human immunodeficiency virus.

633 “HIV prevention drug”, any pre-exposure prophylaxis drug approved for the prevention  
634 of HIV by the federal Food and Drug Administration, including any ancillary or support health  
635 service determined by the secretary of health and human services to be necessary to: (i) ensure  
636 that a drug is prescribed or administered to a person who is not infected with HIV and has no  
637 medical contraindications to the use of a drug; and (ii) monitor a person to ensure the safe and  
638 effective ongoing use of a drug through: (A) office visits; (B) laboratory testing; (C) testing for a  
639 sexually transmitted infection; (D) medication self-management and adherence counseling; or  
640 (E) any other health service specified as part of comprehensive HIV prevention drug services by  
641 the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, the federal Centers for Disease Control and  
642 Prevention, the United States Preventive Services Task Force or an equivalent state-authorized  
643 body with responsibility to identify health services that are components of comprehensive HIV  
644 prevention drug services.

645 (b) Any subscription certificate under an individual or group medical service agreement,  
646 except certificates that provide supplemental coverage to Medicare or other governmental  
647 programs, issued, delivered or renewed, within or without the commonwealth, that provides  
648 coverage for any HIV prevention drug shall not require: (i) patient cost sharing; or (ii) prior  
649 authorization, step therapy or any other protocol that could restrict or delay the dispensing of any  
650 HIV prevention drug.

651 (c) Any subscription certificate under an individual or group medical service agreement,  
652 except certificates that provide supplemental coverage to Medicare or other governmental  
653 programs, issued, delivered or renewed, within or without the commonwealth, that provides  
654 coverage for any HIV prevention drug shall not refuse, reject or deny a prescription for any  
655 covered HIV prevention drug on the basis of the type of health care provider issuing the  
656 prescription for an HIV prevention drug or the venue or practice setting of the health care  
657 provider issuing the prescription; provided, that the health care provider shall be licensed to  
658 prescribe medications.

659 **SECTION 46.** Chapter 176G of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after section  
660 4VV the following section:-

661 Section 4WW. (a) As used in this section, the following words shall, unless the context  
662 clearly requires otherwise, have the following meanings:

663 “Cost sharing”, a deductible, coinsurance, copayment and any maximum limitation on the  
664 application of such a deductible, coinsurance, copayment or similar out-of-pocket expense.

665 “Health care provider”, as defined in section 1 of chapter 111.

666 “HIV”, human immunodeficiency virus.

667 “HIV prevention drug”, any pre-exposure prophylaxis drug approved for the prevention  
 668 of HIV by the federal Food and Drug Administration, including any ancillary or support health  
 669 service determined by the secretary of health and human services to be necessary to: (i) ensure  
 670 that a drug is prescribed or administered to a person who is not infected with HIV and has no  
 671 medical contraindications to the use of a drug; and (ii) monitor a person to ensure the safe and  
 672 effective ongoing use of a drug through: (A) office visits; (B) laboratory testing; (C) testing for a  
 673 sexually transmitted infection; (D) medication self-management and adherence counseling; or  
 674 (E) any other health service specified as part of comprehensive HIV prevention drug services by  
 675 the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, the federal Centers for Disease Control and  
 676 Prevention, the United States Preventive Services Task Force or an equivalent state-authorized  
 677 body with responsibility to identify health services that are components of comprehensive HIV  
 678 prevention drug services.

679 (b) An individual or group health maintenance contract that is issued, delivered or  
 680 renewed, within or without the commonwealth, that provides coverage for any HIV prevention  
 681 drug shall not require: (i) patient cost sharing; or (ii) prior authorization, step therapy or any  
 682 other protocol that could restrict or delay the dispensing of any HIV prevention drug; provided,  
 683 however, that cost sharing shall be required if the applicable plan is governed by the federal  
 684 Internal Revenue Code and would lose its tax-exempt status as a result of the prohibition on cost  
 685 sharing for these services.

686 (c) An individual or group health maintenance contract that is issued, delivered or  
 687 renewed, within or without the commonwealth, that provides coverage for any HIV prevention  
 688 drug shall not refuse, reject or deny a prescription for any covered HIV prevention drug on the  
 689 basis of the type of health care provider issuing the prescription for an HIV prevention drug or  
 690 the venue or practice setting of the health care provider issuing the prescription; provided, that  
 691 the health care provider shall be licensed to prescribe medications.

692 **SECTION 47.** Section 63 of chapter 277 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2024 Official  
 693 Edition, is hereby amended by inserting after the first paragraph the following paragraph:-

694 Notwithstanding the first paragraph, an indictment or complaint for an offense set forth in  
 695 section 22, 22A, 22B, 22C, 22D, 23, 23A or 23B of chapter 265 may be found and filed at any  
 696 time after the date of the commission of such offense if the identity of the person who allegedly  
 697 committed the offense: (i) was identified after the limitation period set forth in this section; and  
 698 (ii) has been established through a DNA analysis, as defined in section 1 of chapter 22E, using  
 699 evidence collected at the time of the commission of the offense.

700 **SECTION 48.** Section 81 of chapter 28 of the acts of 2023, as amended by section 96 of chapter  
 701 9 of the acts of 2025, is hereby further amended by striking out the word “3-year”, each time it  
 702 appears, and inserting in place thereof, in each instance, the following word:- 4-year.

703 **SECTION 49.** Section 114 of said chapter 28, as amended by section 98 of said chapter 9, is  
 704 hereby further amended by striking out the figure “2027” and inserting in place thereof the  
 705 following figure:- 2028.

706 **SECTION 50.** Chapter 9 of the acts of 2025 is hereby amended by striking out section 129 and  
707 inserting in place thereof the following section:-

708           Section 129. Notwithstanding section 189 of chapter 149 of the General Laws, the  
709 comptroller, at the direction of the secretary of administration and finance, may transfer up to  
710 \$15,000,000 of employer medical assistance contributions from the Commonwealth Care Trust  
711 Fund established in section 2000 of chapter 29 of the General Laws to the Health Safety Net  
712 Trust Fund established in section 66 of chapter 118E of the General Laws; provided, however,  
713 that this transfer may be in addition to any other transfers from said Commonwealth Care Trust  
714 Fund to said Health Safety Net Trust Fund required in fiscal year 2026.

715 **SECTION 51.** (a) The department of elementary and secondary education, in consultation with  
716 the operational services division, the department of public utilities and the registry of motor  
717 vehicles, shall study the special education school transportation marketplace to identify areas to  
718 improve the vendor marketplace for special education transportation to ensure open and free  
719 competition.

720           (b) The study shall include, but shall not be limited to: (i) an analysis of pricing data from  
721 school districts; (ii) an analysis of vendor financial information; (iii) other states' models for out-  
722 of-district special education school transportation; (iv) the feasibility and efficacy of establishing  
723 a rate structure for special education transportation providers; and (v) any other information  
724 necessary to identify solutions to address the lack of competition in the marketplace.

725           (c) Not later than July 1, 2027, the department of elementary and secondary education, in  
726 consultation with the operational services division, the department of public utilities and the  
727 registry of motor vehicles, shall submit a report of its findings to the chairs of the joint  
728 committee on education.

729 **SECTION 52.** Notwithstanding section 2000 of chapter 29 of the General Laws or any other  
730 general or special law to the contrary, in fiscal year 2027, the comptroller, at the direction of the  
731 secretary of administration and finance, may transfer to the Commonwealth Care Trust Fund,  
732 established in said section 2000 of said chapter 29, an amount not to exceed the amount equal  
733 to the cost of the fourth year of the pilot program established in section 81 of chapter 28 of the  
734 acts of 2023 from funds attributable to the federal financial participation received by the  
735 commonwealth for designated state health program expenditure.

736 **SECTION 53.** (a) Notwithstanding section 53 of chapter 118E of the General Laws or any other  
737 general or special law to the contrary, beginning in fiscal year 2027, the executive office of  
738 health and human services may determine the extent to which to include within its covered  
739 services for adults the federally-optional dental services that were included in its state plan or  
740 demonstration program in effect on January 1, 2002 and the dental services that were covered for  
741 adults in the MassHealth basic program as of January 1, 2002.

742           (b) Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, beginning in fiscal year  
743 2027, the executive office of health and human services may impose coverage caps, changes,  
744 exclusions or limitations on its coverage of dental services for adults on a per patient basis or in

745 aggregate; provided, that no coverage cap, change, exclusion or limitation shall result in any cap  
746 of less than \$1,750 on covered services for adults.

747 (c) Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, beginning in fiscal year  
748 2027, the health safety net office established in section 65 of chapter 118E of the General Laws  
749 may impose caps, changes, exclusions or limitations on its total payments for dental services for  
750 adults on a per patient basis or in aggregate; provided, that no coverage cap, change, exclusion or  
751 limitation shall result in any cap of less than \$1,750 on covered services for adults.

752 **SECTION 54.** (a) For the purposes of this section, “HDAP” shall mean the HIV Drug  
753 Assistance Program, established under the department of public health and funded in line item  
754 4512-0106 of section 2 of chapter 9 of the acts of 2025.

755 (b) Notwithstanding section 66 of chapter 118E of the General Laws or any other general  
756 or special law to the contrary, in Health Safety Net fiscal year 2026, the comptroller, at the  
757 direction of the secretary of administration and finance, and in consultation with the secretary of  
758 health and human services, may transfer to the department of public health or expend an amount  
759 not more than the amount required from the Health Safety Net Trust Fund, established in said  
760 section 66 of said chapter 118E, for services rendered to Health Safety Net patients participating  
761 in HDAP and any reasonable administrative costs associated with paying for services to such  
762 patients. The secretary of health and human services shall take into consideration supplemental  
763 rebates received by the commonwealth from drug manufacturers for drugs provided through  
764 HDAP.

765 (c) Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, the department of public  
766 health shall use any funds transferred or expended for HDAP from the Health Safety Net Trust  
767 Fund in Health Safety Net fiscal year 2026 exclusively for services rendered to Health Safety  
768 Net patients participating in HDAP and any reasonable administrative costs associated with  
769 paying for services to such patients.

770 **SECTION 55.** (a) For the purposes of this section, “HDAP” shall mean the HIV Drug  
771 Assistance Program, established under the department of public health and funded in line item  
772 4512-0106 of section 2.

773 (b) Notwithstanding section 66 of chapter 118E of the General Laws or any other general  
774 or special law to the contrary, in Health Safety Net fiscal year 2027, the comptroller, at the  
775 direction of the secretary of administration and finance, and in consultation with the secretary of  
776 health and human services, may transfer to the department of public health or expend an amount  
777 not more than the amount required from the Health Safety Net Trust Fund, established in said  
778 section 66 of said chapter 118E, for services rendered to Health Safety Net patients participating  
779 in HDAP and any reasonable administrative costs associated with paying for services to such  
780 patients. The secretary of health and human services shall take into consideration supplemental  
781 rebates received by the commonwealth from drug manufacturers for drugs provided through  
782 HDAP.

783 (c) Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, the department of public  
784 health shall use all funds transferred or expended from the Health Safety Net Trust Fund in  
785 Health Safety Net fiscal year 2027 exclusively for services rendered to Health Safety Net  
786 patients participating in HDAP and any reasonable administrative costs associated with paying  
787 for services to such patients.

788 **SECTION 56.** Notwithstanding section 189 of chapter 149 of the General Laws, the  
789 comptroller, at the direction of the secretary of administration and finance, may transfer not more  
790 than \$15,000,000 of employer medical assistance contributions from the Commonwealth Care  
791 Trust Fund established in section 2000 of chapter 29 of the General Laws to the Health Safety  
792 Net Trust Fund established in section 66 of chapter 118E of the General Laws; provided, that this  
793 transfer may be in addition to any other transfers from said Commonwealth Care Trust Fund to  
794 said Health Safety Net Trust Fund required in fiscal year 2027.

795 **SECTION 57.** Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, the comptroller, at  
796 the direction of the secretary of administration and finance, in consultation with the secretary of  
797 health and human services, may transfer not more than \$15,000,000 from the prescription  
798 advantage program in line item 9110-1455 of section 2 and the Health Safety Net Trust Fund  
799 established in section 66 of chapter 118E of the General Laws in fiscal year 2027 to support the  
800 Medicare Saving or Medicare Buy-In programs established in section 25A of said chapter 118E;  
801 provided, however, that the secretary of health and human services shall certify to the house and  
802 senate committees on ways and means, not less than 45 days in advance of the transfer, in  
803 writing, the amount to be transferred and an explanation of the amount of expected savings to  
804 those programs resulting from the transfer.

805 **SECTION 58.** Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, payments from the  
806 Health Safety Net Trust Fund established in section 66 of chapter 118E of the General Laws may  
807 be made either as safety net care payments under the commonwealth's waiver pursuant to section  
808 1115 of the federal Social Security Act, 42 U.S.C. 1315, or as an adjustment to service rate  
809 payments under Titles XIX and XXI of the federal Social Security Act or a combination of both.  
810 Other federally permissible funding mechanisms available for certain hospitals, as defined by  
811 regulations of the executive office of health and human services, may be used to reimburse up to  
812 \$70,000,000 of uncompensated care pursuant to said section 66 and section 69 of said chapter  
813 118E using sources distinct from the funding made available to the Health Safety Net Trust  
814 Fund.

815 **SECTION 59.** Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, not later than October  
816 1, 2026, and without further appropriation, the comptroller shall transfer from the General Fund  
817 to the Health Safety Net Trust Fund established in section 66 of chapter 118E of the General  
818 Laws the greater of \$45,000,000 or 1/12 of the total expenditures to hospitals and community  
819 health centers required pursuant to this act, for the purposes of making initial gross payments to  
820 qualifying acute care hospitals for the hospital fiscal year beginning October 1, 2026. These  
821 payments shall be made to hospitals before, and in anticipation of, the payment by hospitals of  
822 their gross liability to the Health Safety Net Trust Fund. Not later than June 30, 2027, the  
823 comptroller shall transfer from the Health Safety Net Trust Fund to the General Fund the amount

824 of the transfer authorized by this section and any allocation of that amount as certified by the  
825 director of the health safety net office established in section 65 of said chapter 118E.

826 **SECTION 60.** Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, in hospital fiscal year  
827 2027, the office of the inspector general may expend not more than \$1,000,000 from the Health  
828 Safety Net Trust Fund established in section 66 of chapter 118E of the General Laws for costs  
829 associated with maintaining a health safety net audit unit within the office of the inspector  
830 general. The unit shall continue to oversee and examine the practices in hospitals, including, but  
831 not limited to, the care of the uninsured and the resulting free charges. The unit shall also study  
832 and review the Medicaid program pursuant to said chapter 118E, including, but not limited to, a  
833 review of the program's eligibility requirements, utilization, claims administration and  
834 compliance with federal mandates. The inspector general shall submit a report to the chairs of the  
835 house and senate committees on ways and means on the results of the audits and any other  
836 completed analyses not later than March 1, 2027.

837 **SECTION 61.** Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, nursing facility rates  
838 effective on October 1, 2026, pursuant to section 13D of chapter 118E of the General Laws, may  
839 be developed using the costs of calendar year 2023.

840 **SECTION 62.** Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, for fiscal year 2027,  
841 \$123,500,000 shall be considered operating assistance and distributed to regional transit  
842 authorities from line item 1595-6370 of section 2E. For fiscal year 2027, \$94,000,000 of the  
843 amount transferred in said line item 1595-6370 of said section 2E shall be distributed based on  
844 fiscal year 2026 distributions in accordance with the updated fiscal year 2026 bilateral  
845 memorandum of understanding between each regional transit authority and the Massachusetts  
846 Department of Transportation; provided, however, that each regional transit authority shall  
847 receive operating assistance from said line item 1595-6370 of said section 2E of not less than the  
848 amount received in fiscal year 2026. The Massachusetts Department of Transportation may  
849 require each regional transit authority to provide data on ridership, customer service and  
850 satisfaction, asset management and financial performance, including farebox recovery, and shall  
851 compile any such collected data into a report on the performance of regional transit authorities  
852 and detail each authority's progress towards meeting the performance metrics established in each  
853 memorandum of understanding.

854 **SECTION 63.** Notwithstanding section 59 of chapter 23K of the General Laws or any other  
855 general or special law to the contrary, 100 per cent of the revenue received from a category 1  
856 license, as defined in section 2 of said chapter 23K, pursuant to subsection (a) of section 55 of  
857 said chapter 23K, in fiscal year 2027 shall be transferred as follows:

858 (i) 31.5 per cent to the Gaming Local Aid Fund established in section 63 of said chapter  
859 23K;

860 (ii) 20 per cent to the Commonwealth Transportation Fund established in section 2ZZZ of  
861 chapter 29 of the General Laws;

862 (iii) 20 per cent to the Education Fund established in section 64 of said chapter 23K;

863 (iv) 13 per cent to the Gaming Economic Development Fund established in section  
864 2DDDD of said chapter 29;

865 (v) 5 per cent to the Public Health Trust Fund established in section 58 of said chapter  
866 23K;

867 (vi) 4 per cent to the Community Mitigation Fund established in section 61 of said  
868 chapter 23K;

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

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

873 (ix) 2 per cent to the Massachusetts Tourism Trust Fund to fund tourist promotion  
874 agencies under subsection (b) of section 13T of chapter 23A of the General Laws.

875 **SECTION 64.** (a) Notwithstanding section 5G of chapter 29 of the General Laws, the excess  
876 capital gains threshold for fiscal year 2027 shall be \$2,250,000,000.

877 (b) Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, for fiscal year 2027, the  
878 comptroller shall transfer capital gains collected in excess of the threshold pursuant to section 5G  
879 of chapter 29 of the General Laws, as provided in subsection (a), for fiscal year 2027, on a  
880 quarterly basis as follows: (i) 15 per cent to the Commonwealth's Pension Liability Fund  
881 established in subsection (e) of subdivision (8) of section 22 of chapter 32 of the General Laws,  
882 which shall satisfy the fiscal year 2027 requirements set forth in subdivision (1) of section 22C  
883 of said chapter 32; (ii) 20 per cent to the Commonwealth Stabilization Fund established in  
884 section 2H of said chapter 29; and (iii) 65 per cent to the State Retiree Benefits Trust Fund  
885 established in section 24 of chapter 32A of the General Laws.

886 **SECTION 65.** (a) Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, for fiscal years  
887 2027 through 2031, inclusive, annually all sheriff's offices shall submit full-time employee caps  
888 to the executive office for administration and finance. The submission shall be in a form to be  
889 determined by the executive office.

890 (b) Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, for fiscal year 2027 and  
891 consistent with current law, including, but not limited to, sections 26 and 27 of chapter 29 of the  
892 General Laws, no sheriff's office shall spend into deficiency; provided, that if a sheriff's office  
893 requires supplemental funding, said sheriff's office shall submit sufficient documentation of the  
894 need to the executive office for administration and finance and the comptroller's office prior to  
895 any supplemental budget being filed by the governor. The general court will not act on any  
896 supplemental budget spending until the sheriff's office has submitted documentation to the  
897 executive office.

898 **SECTION 66.** Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, prior to transferring  
899 the consolidated net surplus in the budgetary funds for fiscal year 2027 to the Commonwealth  
900 Stabilization Fund pursuant to section 5C of chapter 29 of the General Laws, the comptroller  
901 shall transfer \$14,000,000 from the General Fund to the Disaster Relief and Resiliency Fund  
902 established in section 2HHHHHH of said chapter 29.

903 **SECTION 67.** Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, the amounts  
904 transferred pursuant to subdivision (1) of section 22C of chapter 32 of the General Laws shall be  
905 made available for the Commonwealth's Pension Liability Fund established in section 22 of said  
906 chapter 32. The amounts transferred pursuant to said subdivision (1) of said section 22C of said  
907 chapter 32 shall meet the commonwealth's obligations pursuant to said section 22C of said  
908 chapter 32, including retirement benefits payable by the state employees' retirement system and  
909 the state teachers' retirement system, for the costs associated with a 3 per cent cost-of-living  
910 adjustment pursuant to section 102 of said chapter 32, for the reimbursement of local retirement  
911 systems for previously authorized cost-of-living adjustments pursuant to said section 102 of said  
912 chapter 32 and for the costs of increased survivor benefits pursuant to chapter 389 of the acts of  
913 1984. The state board of retirement and each city, town, county and district shall verify these  
914 costs, subject to rules that shall be adopted by the state treasurer. The state treasurer may make  
915 payments upon a transfer of funds to reimburse certain cities and towns for pensions of retired  
916 teachers, including any other obligation that the commonwealth has assumed on behalf of a  
917 retirement system other than the state employees' retirement system or state teachers' retirement  
918 system, including the commonwealth's share of the amounts to be transferred pursuant to section  
919 22B of said chapter 32. The payments under this section shall be made only pursuant to  
920 distribution of money from the Commonwealth's Pension Liability Fund and any distribution,  
921 and the payments for which distributions are required, shall be detailed in a written report  
922 prepared quarterly by the secretary of administration and finance and submitted to the house and  
923 senate committees on ways and means and the joint committee on public service in advance of  
924 the distribution. Distributions shall not be made in advance of the date on which a payment is  
925 actually to be made. If the amount transferred pursuant to said subdivision (1) of said section  
926 22C of said chapter 32 exceeds the amount necessary to adequately fund the annual pension  
927 obligations, the excess amount shall be credited to the Pension Reserves Investment Trust Fund  
928 established in subdivision (8) of said section 22 of said chapter 32 to reduce the unfunded  
929 pension liability of the commonwealth.

930 **SECTION 68.** Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, for fiscal year 2027,  
931 the secretary of administration and finance shall direct the comptroller to take any measures  
932 necessary to retain within the General Fund interest earnings that would otherwise be deposited  
933 into or otherwise be attributed to a fund, trust fund or other separate account, whether established  
934 administratively or by law, including a separate account established under section 6 of chapter  
935 6A of the General Laws. The secretary and comptroller shall report to the house and senate  
936 committees on ways and means 45 days before any such action taken pursuant to this section.  
937 The request shall certify that the secretary, in consultation with the comptroller, has determined  
938 that the balance, or a specified part of the balance, is not necessary for the purposes for which it  
939 was made available.

940 **SECTION 69.** Notwithstanding section 5H of chapter 29 of the General Laws or any other  
941 general or special law to the contrary, for fiscal year 2027, all abandoned property net revenue,  
942 as defined in said section 5H of said chapter 29, shall remain in the General Fund.

943 **SECTION 70.** Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, not later than  
944 December 31, 2026, the comptroller shall transfer \$1,000,000 into the Workforce Productivity  
945 Sub-Fund established in section 12 of chapter 175M of the General Laws from the Family and  
946 Employment Security Trust Fund established in section 7 of said chapter 175M.

947 **SECTION 71.** The working group established pursuant to line item 4000-0601 of section 2 of  
948 chapter 140 of the acts of 2024 shall continue to develop recommendations, in addition to those  
949 filed in the personal care attendant working group reports finalized on February 28, 2025 and  
950 November 14, 2025. The working group shall submit updated recommendations consistent with  
951 requirements in line item 4000-0601 in section 2 of this act to convene and consult with the  
952 executive office of health and human services to identify savings in addition to those identified  
953 in the November 14, 2025 report to effectuate the long-term viability of the personal care  
954 attendant program. Not later than January 1, 2027, the working group shall file said  
955 recommendations with the secretary of administration and finance and the house and senate  
956 committees on ways and means.

957 **SECTION 72.** Not later than November 9, 2026, the department of public health, in consultation  
958 with the executive office of housing and livable communities, shall adopt rules or regulations  
959 necessary to implement section 34.

960 **SECTION 73.** Not later than January 1, 2027, the department of elementary and secondary  
961 education, in consultation with the operational services division, shall create a model  
962 procurement template and a model contract for use by school districts for procurement of out-of-  
963 district transportation pursuant to subsection (b) of section 5A of chapter 71B of the General  
964 Laws. The department shall maintain the model documents in the database established in section  
965 5A 1/2 of chapter 71B of the General Laws, inserted by section 33.

966 **SECTION 74.** The first report required pursuant to subsection (d) of section 250 of chapter 111  
967 of the General Laws, inserted by section 35, shall be submitted not later than January 1, 2027.

968 **SECTION 75.** Sections 20 and 24 to 27, inclusive, shall take effect on January 1, 2027.

969 **SECTION 76.** Except as otherwise specified, this act shall take effect on July 1, 2026.