Status Signed Into Law

Chapter 28 of the Acts of 2023

Public Higher Education, K-12, and Early Education & Care

Highlights



Expands Access to Public Higher Education

- Provides tuition equity for students regardless of family background
- Invests \$50 million in free community college, including:
 - \$20 million for MassReconnect
 - \$18 million for nursing students, and
 - \$12 million to build capacity for universal free community college
- Provides \$25 million to encourage degree completion in areas facing workforce shortages



Supports Public K-12 Students

- Makes universal school meals permanent, funded at \$171.5 million
- Provides historic levels of Chapter 70 funding at \$6.59 billion while doubling minimum aid to \$60 per student
- Addresses post-COVID inflation with \$100 million in Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) capital support
- Creates Green School Works to support clean energy infrastructure at public schools



Makes Landmark Investments in Child Care

- Invests the largest ever amount in early education and care at \$1.5 billion to expand access for Massachusetdts families
- Provides \$85 million for the Commonwealth Cares for Children (C3) grants to address affordability and keep the doors of child care centers open post-pandemic



residents with concrete ways to create the futures they dream of, and

continuing our state's commitment to

President of the Massachusetts

education at every level.

KAREN SPILKA

State Senate



Community Support & Local Aid

Highlights

- Provides \$1.27 billion in funding for Unrestricted General Government Aid (UGGA) to support additional resources for cities and towns
- Includes \$184 million, including \$90 million from Fair Share funds, for Regional Transit Authorities (RTAs) to connect all regions of the Commonwealth
- Provides \$51.5 million for payments in lieu of taxes (PILOT) for state-owned land
- Invests more than \$47 million in libraries, including:
 - Nearly \$17 million for regional library local aid
 - More than \$17 million for municipal libraries
 - And more than \$6 million for technology and automated resource networks



Expanding & Protecting Economic Opportnities

Highlights

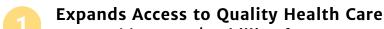
- Invests nearly \$650 million to continue efforts to lift families out of deep poverty
- Provides \$60 million for adult basic education services to improve workforce skills and \$20 million to the Workforce Competitiveness Trust Fund to connect under- and unemployed workers with higher paying jobs
- Addresses food insecurity with a \$36 million investment in the Massachusetts Emergency
 Food Assistance Program and a \$21 million investment in Healthy Incentives Programs
 (HIP) to maintain access to healthy food options for households in need
- Supports access to justice with \$15 million for a Community Empowerment and
 Reinvestment Grant Program to provide economic support to communities
 disproportionately impacted by the criminal justice system and providing that the
 Department of Correction and sheriffs must provide phone calls at no cost to persons
 receiving and initiating phone calls, with no cap on the number of minutes or calls

Status Signed Into Law

Chapter 28 of the Acts of 2023

Health, Mental Health & Family Care

Highlights



- Provides over \$19 billion for MassHealth
- Invests \$582 million in nursing facility
 Medicaid rates, including \$112 million to
 pay nurses competitive wages
- Supports reproductive health at \$3 million
- Provides \$1 million for maternal health

Supports Vulnerable Residents

- Supports individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities at nearly \$3 billion
- Invests more than \$213 million in a complete range of substance use disorder treatment and intervention services
- Provides nearly \$43 million for Early
 Intervention (EI) services for children with developmental delays and disabilities
- Provides more than \$26 million for local Councils on Aging

Invests in Mental Health for Everyone

- Provides nearly \$120 million for children's mental health services
- Invests nearly \$34 million in Family Resource
 Centers to provide services in communities
- Assists emergency department diversion initiatives with a \$25 million investment
- Continues the important work of the Behavioral Health, Access, Outreach and Support Trust Fund with \$20 million
- Provides \$6 million for Social Emotional Learning grants in K-12 schools
- Invests \$5 million in Children Advocacy Centers



and Means Vice Chair

Status Signed Into Law

Chapter 28 of the Acts of 2023

Transportation

Highlights

- Provides \$181 billion for MBTA capital projects, while providing \$20 million to address ongoing safety concerns and \$5 million fare-free MBTA rides
- Invests \$100 million in supplemental aid for roads and bridges, with half focused on the total mileage of participating municipalities to support rural communities
- Supports Regional Transit Authorities (RTAs) at \$90 million
- Provides nearly \$6 million for water transportation to increase access to public transit



Housing

Highlights

- Invests a historic \$1.05 billion, dedicating resources to programs that support housing stability, residential assistance, and assistance to those experiencing homelessness
- Prioritizes relief for families and individuals who faced challenges brought on by the pandemic, including \$324 million for Emergency Assistance family shelters and \$190 million for Residential Assistance for Families in Transition (RAFT)
- Provides \$180 million for the Massachusetts Rental Voucher Program (MRVP) and \$26 million for the Alternative Housing Voucher Program (AHVP), creating over 1,000 new vouchers



- Invests \$37 million for the HomeBASE diversion and rapid re-housing programs
- Makes permanent a pandemic-era eviction protection for renters with pending applications for emergency rental assistance