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Moore, Kane Announce Passage of FY20 State Budget *Funding secured to support local initiatives*

BOSTON – Senator Michael O. Moore (D-Millbury) and Representative Hannah E. Kane (R-Shrewsbury) announced that the Legislature recently passed the Fiscal Year 2020 state budget, which invests in programs and services across the Commonwealth.

Funded at \$43.1 billion, the budget makes major investments in education, housing, substance use disorder services, health care, and other areas while projecting a more than \$476 million deposit into the Stabilization Fund – bringing the fund’s balance to more than \$3 billion to provide fiscal stability and safeguard the future of vital programs and services.

Senator Moore and Representative Kane worked together to secure local priorities in the budget including \$50,000 to fund a public safety feasibility study relative to preliminary planning for a new police station in the Town of Shrewsbury, and \$50,000 to support the Youth Mental Health First Aid Program at Shrewsbury Youth and Family Services, Inc.

“I take pride in advocating for the needs of our neighbors, and prioritizing funding that will help strengthen our region,” said Senator Moore. “No state budget is ever perfect, but there are many important investments in this Senate budget that will help our communities grow and thrive. I am particularly proud of the strong investments in public education achieved through the passage of this legislation.”

“The Fiscal Year 2020 budget contains considerable investments in local aid and education, including Chapter 70 and Special Education Circuit Breaker funding, which meaningfully support our Commonwealth’s municipalities,” stated Representative Kane. “I am pleased that the FY20

budget places a focus on partnering with and strengthening our towns and cities and includes a substantial deposit into the Commonwealth's Stabilization Fund, bringing the estimated total of the Fund to \$3.3 billion by the end of the Fiscal Year."

The budget increases unrestricted general government aid by nearly \$30 million and provides \$5.17 billion in Chapter 70 education funding as part of a \$268 million increase for investments in schools over Fiscal Year 2019. Additional education allocations include \$345 million for special education reimbursement and \$75.8 million for regional school transportation reimbursement.

Shrewsbury will receive \$20,068,648 in Chapter 70 funding, which is an increase of \$181,290 over Fiscal Year 2019, and \$2,958,042 in unrestricted general government aid, an increase of \$77,767.

The budget builds on the Legislature's commitment to ensuring children have access to high-quality early education and care. The budget invests in those who work with children by increasing rates for early education providers by \$20 million and supporting continuing education opportunities with community colleges.

The budget calls for more than \$283 million in spending for environmental programs. These funding levels will ensure that state keeps up with the needs of its parks and environmental protections programs. Notably, the budget includes \$47.25 million for state parks and recreational facilities.

In the area of labor and economic development, the budget invests in programs that provide job opportunities for residents to participate in the Commonwealth's thriving economy. These investments include \$90.5 million for regional transit authorities and \$2 million to establish a program to promote and support the Massachusetts restaurant industry.

For the first time in nearly 20 years, the budget will increase the Commonwealth's contribution into the Community Preservation Act, which will ensure that over \$36 million more will be distributed to projects all across the Commonwealth and help raise the state's match up to 30 percent for investments in open space, affordable housing and historic preservation.

Having been passed by the House and Senate, the legislation now goes to Governor Baker for his signature. To continue tracking the budget bill, H.4000, visit the Legislature's website, www.malegislature.gov.

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