



Office of  
**Representative Hannah E. Kane**  
Commonwealth of Massachusetts

*For Immediate Release*

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July 9, 2021

## **Representative Kane supports passage of \$48.1 billion state budget for Fiscal Year 2022**

**BOSTON** – State Representative Hannah Kane, R-Shrewsbury, recently supported a \$48.1 billion state budget for Fiscal Year 2022 (FY22) that increases local aid, builds up the state’s reserves to historic highs, and invests in both the short-and long-term obligations facing the Commonwealth.

The budget represents a compromise spending plan that reconciles the differences between earlier versions of the budget approved by the House in April and the Senate in May. The House and Senate voted unanimously on July 9 to accept the conference committee report and enact the budget, which is now before Governor Charlie Baker for his review.

The budget provides \$5.5 billion in Chapter 70 education aid to cities and towns, which is a \$219.6 million increase over current funding levels. It also includes nearly \$1.2 billion in Unrestricted General Government Aid (UGGA) to help communities fund essential municipal services. Representative Kane said the budget will provide \$20,252,968 in direct education aid and \$3,061,573 in unrestricted state aid to Shrewsbury and \$11,190,003 in direct education aid and \$1,273,608 in unrestricted state aid to Westborough for the new fiscal year that began July 1.

In addition to the Chapter 70 funding increase, which will help fund the first year of the Student Opportunity Act, the budget also establishes a \$350 million trust fund to assist with the implementation of this Act, which requires a six-year phased-in increase of \$1.5 billion in state education funding.

Representative Kane noted the budget also provides for increases in several key line items that offer education funding support to municipalities. The budget includes \$373.3 million for the Special Education Circuit Breaker; \$154.6 million for sending district charter school reimbursements; \$82.2 million for regional school transportation; and \$14.5 million for homeless student transportation.

The budget also sets aside \$40 million for one-time additional assistance to school districts that have experienced pandemic-related disruptions in their enrollment that have negatively affected their chapter 70 aid. In addition, it provides for \$15 million in one-time grants to reimburse school districts for the costs associated with summer school programming to address pandemic- and lockdown-related learning loss.

Representative Kane was successful in securing several important local initiatives for her district in the budget, including \$50,000 for Shrewsbury Youth and Family Services to provide Youth Mental Health First Aid (YMHFA) training, service, and treatment efforts across the Commonwealth and \$50,000 for public safety improvements, including the purchase of police-worn body cameras, for the Shrewsbury Police Department. The Westborough House delegation, which includes Representative Danielle Gregoire (D-Marlborough) and Representative Carolyn Dykema (D-Holliston), was successful in advocating for \$38,404 for police-worn body

cameras. Representative Kane also worked alongside her colleagues Representative Denise Garlick (D-Needham) and Senator Jo Comerford (D-Northampton) to secure \$15 million in the budget for local and regional public health efforts.

With revenues running well ahead of projections made during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, Representative Kane noted the final budget foregoes a planned draw down from the state's Stabilization Fund, more commonly known as the Rainy Day Fund. Instead, the state will be depositing additional monies into the fund, partly from anticipated capital gains taxes, which is expected to bring the fund's balance to approximately \$5.8 billion by the end of Fiscal Year 2022.

The additional revenues will also allow for another \$250 million to be dedicated towards the state's pension fund.

To help address food insecurity issues exacerbated by the pandemic, the budget boosts emergency food assistance funding to \$30.5 million and the Healthy Incentives Program to \$13 million, top priorities of the Legislature's Food System Caucus of which Rep. Kane is a Co-founder and Co-chair.

Other key funding initiatives in the FY22 budget include:

- a \$20 million rate increase for the state's childcare providers;
- \$15 million for Head Start Grants;
- \$3 million for early childhood mental health grants;
- \$130.5 million in higher education scholarship funding;
- \$129.9 million for the Massachusetts Rental Voucher Program;
- \$85 million for public housing subsidies;
- \$22 million for Residential Assistance to Families in Transition (RAFT); and
- \$175.5 million for the Bureau of Substance Abuse Addiction Services.

The budget also increases the salaries of the sheriffs of Barnstable, Berkshire, Bristol, Essex, Franklin, Hampden, Hampshire, Middlesex, Norfolk, Plymouth, Suffolk and Worcester counties to \$171,900, with the Dukes County sheriff's salary set at \$135,610 and Nantucket County sheriff's salary set at \$108,870.

Representative Kane said the budget establishes a permanent commission on the status of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders, as well as a Hate Crimes Task Force. It also creates several other commissions, including ones that will:

- review and develop recommendations and best practices for local and regional public safety response to mental health emergencies in the Commonwealth;
- investigate, develop and recommend methods and strategies for reducing poverty and expanding opportunity for people with low income; and
- examine the Department of Public Health's nursing home licensure process and requirements.

Representative Kane said the budget also authorizes several policy initiatives, including language:

- making the Massachusetts Educational Financing Authority (MEFA) college savings tax deduction permanent;
- expanding the cap on the number of hours any person who is receiving a state, county, city, town, district or authority pension or retirement allowance is allowed to work for the state from 960 hours to 1200 hours;

- repealing the 2022 sunset date for the state’s film tax credit, which has helped to generate more than \$2.8 billion in economic development since 2006, while increasing the percentage of budget and filming days production crews must spend in Massachusetts to qualify for the tax credit from 50% to 75% ; and
- extending the sunset date for the Massachusetts historic rehabilitation tax credit from 2022 until 2027.

Governor Baker has until July 19 to review the budget and issue any vetoes.

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