



THE MASSACHUSETTS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
REPRESENTATIVE KATE HOGAN
THIRD MIDDLESEX DISTRICT
STATE HOUSE, ROOM 130, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02133-1053

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Contact:
Kelsey Schiller
Communications Director
Office of Representative Kate Hogan
(617) 722-2130
Kelsey.Schiller@mahouse.gov

House Passes Forward-Looking, Responsible Economic Development Bill

(BOSTON) – Representative Kate Hogan joined her colleagues in the House of Representatives to pass an economic development bill that will enhance the state’s position as a global economic competitor and support residents through education and training programs. For the first time, this legislation creates an education tax incentive program (529 plan) which will allow single filers to take a \$1,000 tax deduction on contributions to college savings accounts.

Recognizing the role that early-growth companies and emerging sectors have in revitalizing the economy, this bill supports our innovation ecosystem by incentivizing investment in Massachusetts companies, advancing the Commonwealth’s growing e-health cluster and data analytics and cybersecurity sectors, and creating a commission to study the regulation of fantasy sports. The legislation also invests in several education and training programs, such as the Workforce Skills Capital Grant Program and the Early College High School Initiative, to further develop talent, support students, and keep graduates in Massachusetts.

The bill takes multiple steps to spur community growth and infrastructure improvements, including a \$500 million authorization for the MassWorks Infrastructure Program. In addition, the bill authorizes funds for the Smart Growth Housing Trust Fund, creates a new local option so a community can develop “starter home zoning districts”, and reforms the Housing Development Incentive Program.

“This comprehensive economic development bill will provide a boost to many areas of the Massachusetts economy, including our health care, innovation, high-tech, and manufacturing sectors,” said Representative Kate Hogan. “I am particularly glad this legislation also includes a provision that will update the Commonwealth’s liquor laws to make it easier for small businesses to thrive in our 21st century economy.”

The economic development bill amends Chapter 138 of the Massachusetts General Laws to explicitly allow farmers who produce wine, beer, or distilled spirits to simultaneously hold a license to make and pour alcohol on the farm’s premises, and a second license to serve those drinks at an on-site restaurant. This update resolves an issue that presented in Rep. Hogan’s district when a local business was unable to obtain the necessary liquor licenses for their farmer winery, distillery, brewery, and restaurant business model.

Representative Kate Hogan also successfully filed an amendment to the bill to add flexibility to the Massachusetts Small Business Health Insurance Cooperative law. The amendment will allow end of year financial incentives or rebates to award consumers working together to get healthier and be smarter purchasers of healthcare services under the cooperative’s wellness and transparency programs.

The bill moved to the Senate for consideration on June 14.

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