



THE MASSACHUSETTS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
REPRESENTATIVE KATE HOGAN
THIRD MIDDLESEX DISTRICT
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For Immediate Release:
July 19, 2017

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Flanagan, Hogan approve state budget

BOSTON– Senator Jennifer Flanagan and Representative Kate Hogan recently joined their colleagues in the legislature in voting to approve a \$40.2 billion state budget for Fiscal Year 2018. The final budget reduces spending from the originally proposed Senate and House budgets due to revised revenue forecasts, but maintains the legislature’s strong commitment to health prevention and treatment, education funding, and preserving local aid to cities and towns.

Significant final investments include:

- **Chapter 70 Education Aid** – increased by \$118.9 million over FY17 to provide for a \$30 per pupil increase and a significant down payment on foundation budget health care rate increases;
- **Unrestricted Local Aid to Cities and Towns** – increased by \$40 million;
- **Bureau of Substance Addiction Services** – increased by \$6.8 million to continue to fund beds, treatment centers, life-saving medications, and recovery options;
- **Developmental Services** – increased by \$61.7 million, particularly to support the growing Turning 22 population;
- **Department of Children and Families (DCF)** – overall DCF funding increased by \$36 million to continue important initiatives designed to ensure that every family has a healthy, supportive environment.

"The legislature had to make some tough decisions during this budget, but we are pleased that some critical investments were made in education and we were able to provide local funding for agencies, colleges, and programs that are critical to the wellbeing and safety of our residents," said Senator Jennifer Flanagan.

Several of Senator Flanagan's amendments that made it through to the final budget include an increase in Special Education funding, funding for the Massachusetts Down Syndrome Congress, and money put aside for a DCF Task Force on Child Welfare Data Reporting. Locally, money for the Onsite Academy in Westminster, Leominster's Johnny Appleseed Trail association, Radios for Townsend Police, the Leominster Yes We Care Torch Program, Mount Wachusett Community College's Automotive Technology Center, Clinton Parking Lot reconstruction, and a Gardner Business Incubator were secured.

“The FY18 budget aims to deliver high-quality education to all students, ensure the safety and wellness of our citizens, and promote sustained economic health in Massachusetts,” said Representative Kate Hogan. “This was a tough budget, as below-benchmark revenue forced us to shift spending estimates downwards. I’m proud that, despite reduced revenue, this budget upholds our commitment to the Commonwealth’s most vulnerable residents by investing in areas critical to the government’s core functions.”

As a part of the deliberative process, Representative Hogan successfully filed and passed amendments to the House budget that were included in the final budget. She secured funding to support the work of the 495/MetroWest Suburban Edge Community Commission, which she Co-Chairs. The funding will go towards completing the Commission’s white paper on findings for the region and developing policy responses and recommendations to ensure that suburban “edge”

communities, like those comprising Representative Hogan's district, can participate in state development initiatives and benefit from state resources. In addition, Representative Hogan restored funding to the Massachusetts Center for the Book, a public-private partnership charged with developing, supporting, and promoting programming that emphasizes the central role libraries play in civic and cultural life.

The full budget can be found online at <https://malegislature.gov/Budget/ConferenceCommittee>. The budget has been sent to Governor Baker for his signature.

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