

MassSenate

EDUCATION

UNIVERSAL FREE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

The new *MassEducate* program covers tuition and fees for all eligible students and **provides up to \$1,200 for books and supplies** for low or middle income students.

TUITION EQUITY

Expands eligibility for *in-state college tuition* to students who have attended Massachusetts high schools for at least three years and earned a Massachusetts diploma, regardless of immigration status.

TRANSFORMING EARLY EDUCATION

Makes permanent C3 grants to early ed providers, allowing them to invest in *educator compensation* and increase their capacity to serve more children, while **avoiding major cost increases for families**.



SCHOOL MEALS FOR ALL

Massachusetts became the eighth state to **eliminate family costs, paperwork, and stigma** attached to free school meals.

EARLY EDUCATION EXPANSION

Expands eligibility for childcare subsidies up to 85 per cent of the state median income, with a **7 per cent income cap on parent fees** for families receiving a subsidy.

TAX RELIEF

EARNED INCOME TAX CREDIT INCREASE

An increase of the EITC from 30 per cent to 40 per cent of the federal credit. Nearly 400,000 *working families* with lower incomes will see an increase, with some families receiving a roughly \$700 increase.

CHILD AND FAMILY TAX CREDIT INCREASE

The *country's most generous universal tax credit*, providing \$440 per child, dependent senior or disabled adult, helping over 565,000 families.

DOUBLING THE SENIOR CIRCUIT BREAKER TAX CREDIT

Doubles the maximum credit for low- or middle-income seniors whose housing payments exceed 10 per cent of their income to \$2,730 in 2024.

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ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

MASS LEADS ACT

Spurs new climatetech industry

through a combination of bond authorization and tax credits to support research, development, innovation, manufacturing, and commercialization of the next generation of technology.

Maintains leadership in life sciences by authorizing new capital funding and increasing the annual tax credit cap for the life sciences industry.

Supports local industry through new tax credits to support local live theater and spur the creation of data centers.

Supports craft brewers and farmers markets by updating the law to allow for locally produced craft beer to be sold at farmers markets, like wine and cider.

Promotes sustainability for farmers by allowing farmers to diversify the use of their land and sell home grown goods.

Expands the nursing workforce and increases access to doctors by allowing qualified nurses to hold a multistate license to practice in Massachusetts and creating a new, streamlined pathway for experienced internationally trained physicians to practice locally, with an emphasis on service in rural or underserved areas.

Increasing price transparency by requiring ticket sellers to clearly disclose the full and actual ticket price when listing tickets online, stopping their practice of hidden fees and surprise charges.

Expanding educator diversity by allowing for an alternative certification process for teachers who may face challenges passing the educator certification.

PAY EQUITY & TRANSPARENCY

Mandates ***salary transparency to close racial and gender wage gaps*** by requiring larger employers to disclose salary ranges and by protecting an employee's right to ask for salary ranges.

SINGLE SALES FACTOR

Removed tax barriers ***to in-state job growth and capital investments***, and more fairly divides the tax burden between in-state and out-of-state companies, ***encouraging in-state growth and promoting competitiveness***.

ONLINE STATE LOTTERY

Authorized the Massachusetts lottery to ***make games available online***.

LIQUOR LICENSES

Authorizes ***225 new licenses*** for the city of Boston.

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HOUSING

INCREASES TO THE LOW-INCOME HOUSING TAX CREDIT AND HOUSING DEVELOPMENT INCENTIVE PROGRAM

To **build new affordable and middle income housing**, the \$20 million annual cap increase to the LIHTC will **build up to 900 new homes a year**, while the HDIP increase to \$57 million one-time, and then to \$30 million annually, will **create an estimated 12,500 new homes in Gateway Cities**.

ACCESSORY DWELLING UNITS

Requires as-of-right zoning for accessory dwelling or in-law units in all 351 communities. An **estimated 8,000 to 10,000 ADUs will be built across the state over the next five years** due to passage of the law.

HOME INSPECTION CONSUMER PROTECTIONS

Protects potential homeowners from being pressured into waiving a home inspection because of unprecedented housing demand.

BANNED EQUITY THEFT

Prevents cities and towns from keeping any **surplus proceeds** received from the taking and sale of person's home for back taxes, instead requiring that **any leftover money be returned to the former homeowner**.

PROTECTING RENTERS DURING CONDO CONVERSIONS

Requires **proper notice, rent increase protections, a right of first refusal to buy, and the right to moving expenses** if a non-owner-occupied building converts its units to condos. Previously applied to four or more unit buildings.

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The **largest** housing investment in Massachusetts **history** has been signed into law



EVICITION PROTECTIONS

Puts a **hold on non-payment eviction court proceedings** if the tenant has applied for rental assistance until the assistance application is approved or denied and **allows tenants to seal eviction records in certain circumstances**.

REFORMING THE ESTATE TAX

Increases the estate tax exemption from \$1 million to \$2 million. The new tax only applies to the portion of an estate that exceeds \$2 million rather than the entire estate.

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HEALTH CARE

LOWERING DRUG PRICES

Lowers *prescription drug costs* while *increasing access for individuals at the pharmacy counter* and making broad, necessary changes to the state's health care system to *add oversight and transparency*.

LONG-TERM CARE OVERSIGHT

Strengthens the licensure process for *long-term care facilities*, requiring each nursing home to undergo *ongoing inspections, and increasing financial penalties for noncompliance*.

SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER

Expands access to opioid reversal drugs, and *strengthens treatment for residents going through recovery*.

MASSHEALTH ESTATE RECOVERY

Limits MassHealth estate recovery to only *federally mandated recovery* for nursing home care and certain other long term care costs.



MARKET OVERSIGHT REFORM

Improves the state's ability to *constrain health care cost growth* by *strengthening oversight of healthcare industry players* including providers, insurers, pharmaceutical companies, pharmacy benefit managers, for-profit entities, private equity firms, real estate investment trusts, and management services organizations.

BANNING CANCER CAUSING PFAS

Requires manufacturers and sellers of personal protective equipment for firefighters containing PFAS chemicals to *provide written notice to the purchaser that the equipment contains PFAS chemicals* and eventually *prohibits them from knowingly selling gear containing PFAS chemicals*.

MATERNAL HEALTH LEGISLATION

Expands coverage for midwifery, birth centers, doulas and screening and treatment for postpartum depression.

HEALTH COVERAGE EXPANSION

Expands income eligibility for the Massachusetts Health Connector, the Commonwealth's health insurance marketplace, providing *no deductible and lower or no co-pays* to thousands of new residents—51,000 in year one—who will *save money on their annual health care costs*.

IMPROVED EMERGENCY STROKE CARE PROTOCOLS

Creates a three-tier system for *transporting patients to hospitals* that have various designations for providing stroke care, empowering emergency medical services to transport patients experiencing severe strokes to hospitals capable of providing them with the most advanced treatments.

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PUBLIC SAFETY

PROTECTING PUBLIC SPACES AGAINST VOTER INTIMIDATION

Prohibits the carrying of a **firearm in polling locations during voting**, as well as government administrative buildings and courts.

CRACKING DOWN ON GHOST GUNS

Closes legal loopholes to ensure a ban on the creation, sale or transfer of an untraceable firearm.

KEEPING GUNS FROM MINORS

Raised the minimum age from 18 to 21 to own a semi-automatic rifle or shotgun.

BANNING REVENGE PORN

Criminalizes the **sharing of sexually explicit images or videos** without consent and implements a youth educational diversion program.

CIVIL RIGHTS & EQUITY

INCARCERATED INDIVIDUALS PHONE CALL COSTS

Removed punitive costs of phone calls on incarcerated individuals.

NONBINARY GENDER DESIGNATIONS

Allows an individual to be identified with **a non-binary 'X' designation** on their **birth certificate** and enshrines into law the current practice of allowing a non-binary 'X' gender designation on their **driver's license**.

LEGAL PARENTAGE EQUALITY

Updated state law on establishing and **recognizing legal parent-child relationships** to include and protect more families, including LGBTQ families, families formed through assisted reproduction and surrogacy.



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TRANSPORTATION

LOW INCOME MBTA FARES

For the first time, provided the funding to ensure a ***universal low-income MBTA fare program*** providing ***half-cost rides*** on all MBTA modes.

FARE-FREE STATEWIDE REGIONAL RTA BUS SERVICE

After two years of pilot programs, all 13 RTAs will now ***operate fare-free year-round service***.

VETERANS

EXPANDED VETERANS BENEFITS

Increased the ***tax credit for employers who hire disabled veterans from \$2,000 to \$2,500*** and allows veterans to be ***reimbursed for visits to outpatient behavioral health providers***.

FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY

FEDERAL INFRASTRUCTURE FUNDING

Allows the interest accrued from the Commonwealth's Stabilization Fund to ***leverage investments in generational federal funding opportunities***.

ANIMAL PROTECTION

PET PROTECTIONS

Improves animal safety by ***updating the licensing for kennels***. Requires ***all kennels to be licensed*** and municipalities to establish a limit to the number of animals that can be housed by a kennel.

PROTECTING ANIMALS IN TRAVELING ACTS

Banned the use of elephants, lions, giraffes and primates in ***traveling acts*** like circuses.

CLEAN ENERGY

SITING & PERMITTING REFORM

Expedites siting and permitting to speed up the pace of planning, constructing, and bringing online clean energy infrastructure to support solar, wind, storage, and other technologies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Extends consumer rebates on electric vehicles through 2027, giving residents an opportunity to qualify for a \$3,500 rebate on a purchase of a qualifying EV.

Increases access to energy storage by requiring new energy storage procurements to help reduce peak energy demand, defer transmission and distribution investments, and increase grid reliability and resiliency.

Builds out EV charger infrastructure by increasing opportunities for pole-mounted charging in more communities and removing barriers to EV charger installations in condo complexes and historic districts.