

# MassSenate

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## EDUCATION

### UNIVERSAL FREE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

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

### TUITION EQUITY

Expanded 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

Expanded eligibility for childcare subsidies up to 85 per cent of the state median income, with **a 7 per cent 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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## 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 taking a person's home to recoup back taxes** and then selling the home and keeping any leftover money, instead requiring **any surplus 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



### EVICTION 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 & PROTECTING RESIDENTS**

### **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 thousands of dollars on their annual health care costs**.

### **BANNING CANCER CAUSING PFAS FROM FIREFIGHTER MATERIALS**

Effective January 1, 2025, manufacturers and sellers of personal protective equipment for firefighters containing PFAS chemicals will be required to **provide written notice to the purchaser that the equipment contains PFAS chemicals**. They will also be **prohibited from knowingly selling gear containing intentionally-added PFAS chemicals** January 1, 2027.

### **MASSHEALTH ESTATE RECOVERY PRACTICES**

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

### **STRENGTHENING 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**.

### **COMPREHENSIVE MATERNAL HEALTH LEGISLATION**

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

### **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 AND 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 ***annual payment to disabled veterans from \$2,000 to \$2,500*** and allows veterans to be ***reimbursed for visits to outpatient behavioral health providers***.

## **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

### **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.

## **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.