

## FY2026 House Budget Priority Amendments

# Cosponsor and support these amendments to address Massachusetts' housing needs.

#### **Rental Assistance**

- #1263 Massachusetts Rental Voucher Program (MRVP) (Rep. Vanna Howard)
  Increases funding to \$270 million for approximately 800 new vouchers.
- #1402 Alternative Housing Voucher Program (AHVP) (Rep. Rob Consalvo)
  Modernizes AHVP to make the vouchers easier to use and administer.
- #1509 Housing Assistance for Re-Entry Transition (Rep. Chyna Tyler)
   Increases funding to \$5 million for housing assistance for individuals exiting incarceration.
- #883 Department of Mental Health (DMH) Rental Subsidy Program (Rep. Sean Garballey)

Increases the allocation to \$21.548 million for housing people experiencing homelessness and disabling mental health conditions.

- #1 Residential Assistance for Families in Transition (RAFT) (Rep. David LeBoeuf)
   Improves RAFT by eliminating the requirement for a notice to quit or utility shutoff to
   access benefits to allow for more upstream access to benefits. Also requires EOHLC to
   establish criteria for demonstrating that a household is experiencing or is at risk of
   homelessness.
- #1276 Residential Assistance for Families in Transition (RAFT) (Rep. Marjorie Decker)

Improves RAFT by increasing the 12-month benefit cap to \$10,000, provides direct payment to tenants of unresponsive landlords, authorizes forward rent payments and stipends, and moves access to benefits more upstream by eliminating requirements for imminent eviction or utility shutoff.

#435 – HomeBASE (Rep. Christine Barber)
 Improves the HomeBASE program by increasing benefit caps for recipients and making it easier for families experiencing housing challenges to access benefits.

#### **Public Housing**

• #731 and #1351 – Public Housing (Reps. Paul McMurtry and David Biele)
Increases funding to \$119 million to provide more for the operation and maintenance of the 43,000 homes provided by public housing.

#### Homeownership

• #983 – Saving Toward Affordable and Sustainable Homeownership (STASH) (Rep. Christopher Worrell)

Provides \$500,000 for STASH to support first-generation homebuyers through matched savings.

#### **Fair Housing**

• #1534 – Fair Housing Trust (Rep. Dave Rogers)

Provides \$4 million for the Trust to support activities to prevent and eliminate housing discrimination.

 #654 and #1256 – Fair Housing Centers (Reps. Patricia Duffy and Christopher Hendricks)

Provides \$150,000 for the Massachusetts Fair Housing Center and \$75,000 for the South Coast Fair Housing Center to support the vital work of addressing housing discrimination.

### **Program Administrative Line**

• #1631 – EOHLC Administration (Rep. Chris Markey)

Increase administrative funding for EOHLC to \$22.2 million to support the work of the Office in addressing Massachusetts' housing needs.

#### **Housing Stability**

- #1401 Housing Consumer Education Centers (HCECs) (Rep. Rob Consalvo) Restores proposed cuts to HCECs with funding of \$8.974 million to provide critical support for people experiencing a range of housing challenges.
- #1649 Healthy Homes Program (Rep. Shirley Arriaga)
  Provides \$5 million to address issues such as mold, lead, and asbestos to keep people in their homes and improve the quality of aged housing stock.
- #851 Tenancy Preservation Program (TPP) (Rep. Andy Vargas)
  Provides \$42,755 to support TPP and to preserve the line item.
- #1410 Surplus Transfer to Community Preservation Fund (Rep. Kassner)

  Dedicates up to \$20 million from the FY25 surplus to the state match pool for cities and towns that adopt the Community Preservation Act.
- #285 First-Time Homebuyer and Foreclosure Prevention (Rep. Samantha Montaño)
  Restores funding to \$3.05 million to provide a crucial tool that keeps people in their homes when experiencing housing challenges.

#### **Homelessness and Supportive Housing**

- #368 Home and Healthy for Good (HHG) (Rep. James Hawkins)
  Increase funding for HHG to \$8.89 million to address the needs of individuals experiencing homelessness through the successful Housing First model.
- #1221 Unaccompanied Homeless Youth (Rep. Jim O'Day)
   Increases funding to \$12 million for housing and services for youth experiencing homelessness.

#### **Zoning and Planning**

• #570 – MBTA Communities (Rep. Brad Jones)

Expands the scope of the MBTA Communities Act to include all cities and towns in Massachusetts.