



DENISE ANDREWS
STATE REPRESENTATIVE
2ND FRANKLIN DISTRICT
ATHOL, ERVING, GILL, GREENFIELD,
ORANGE, WARWICK

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
STATE HOUSE, BOSTON 02133-1054

Committees on:
Revenue
Election Laws
Labor and Workforce Development

STATE HOUSE, ROOM 443
TEL. (617) 722-2460
FAX. (617) 626-0120
Denise.Andrews@MAhouse.gov

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
January 19, 2012

Contact:
Brian Eno, Legislative Aide
Office of Representative Denise Andrews
(617) 722-2460

Rep. Andrews Calls to Continue to Hold Fiscal Stewardship and Care as Paramount for the Next Several Years

“A community is democratic only when the humblest and weakest person can enjoy the highest civil, economic and social rights that the biggest and most powerful possess.”

BOSTON – Second Franklin State Representative Denise Andrews joined her colleagues in the Massachusetts House of Representatives in passing supplemental budget legislation of *approximately* \$131 million dollars.

“In these tough economic times, it remains ever important that the House pass legislation to help stimulate business expansion and create job opportunities,” House Speaker Robert A. DeLeo said. “As Massachusetts continues to emerge from this trying recession, the House vows to keep these important values atop our priority list.”

Highlights of the supplemental budget include the following:

- Freezes for another year, the scheduled increase in the unemployment insurance assessment paid by all employers. The unemployment trust fund, which pays claims to residents that have been laid off, is primarily funded by an assessment on the employers. By law, as the funds in the unemployment system are drawn down, employers’ contributions increase to replenish the fund for future need. Freezing the rate at Schedule E will save the average employer \$141 per employee. Workers will continue to receive the same benefits under this rate freeze.
- \$35 million for the MassHealth Senior Care Adult Day Health program. Adult Day Health centers are assistance centers that provide care for seniors during the day when other family members or caregivers may have to work or handle other responsibilities. This funding will extend adult day health services until July 1, 2012.

(more)

- \$21.2 million for the LIHEAP-Fuel Assistance Program. During the cold of winter, this appropriation will restore about half of the gap to the Federal Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program, which reduced the Commonwealth's appropriation by some \$50 million. This is for heating the homes of low-income elders and families.

- \$1.7 million for Franklin and Worcester County Sheriff operating budgets.

- \$2.9 for a negotiated and owed SEIU collective bargaining agreement.

“As Massachusetts continues to navigate the current global recession, we must balance our support of job growth with our commitment to programs that offer assistance and support in our communities,” said Representative Dempsey. “This must be done in a responsible manner as the Commonwealth deals with difficult budget constraints.”

“Together we are called to stay current and accountable to both the highest standards of caring and fiscal accountability. We are in a new order of the post 2008 fiscal crisis and it will be about diligence, compassion, teamwork and accountability. Effective leaders and citizens working together in each of our many roles will be required to rebuild the vibrancy of our communities, nation and world – one life, one job, one service, one decision, one interaction and one dollar at a time,” said Representative Andrews.

###