



City of Cambridge

O-13.

IN CITY COUNCIL

April 10, 2000

COUNCILLOR DAVIS
 COUNCILLOR BORN
 COUNCILLOR BRAUDE
 COUNCILLOR DECKER
 MAYOR GALLUCCIO
 VICE MAYOR MAHER
 COUNCILLOR REEVES
 COUNCILLOR SULLIVAN

RESOLVED: That the City Council supports the Massachusetts Municipal Association (MMA) recommendations for the House Ways and Means Committee budget set forth below, and hereby requests the Cambridge legislative delegation to support the following recommendations:

- ◆ Chapter 70 School Aid. Support the MMA sponsored amendment to provide "true" minimum aid increases for all school districts;
- ◆ Special Education Reform. Support the special education reforms and adopt the MMA funding amendment;
- ◆ Chapter 90 Local Road Program. Support the \$50 million Chapter 90 amendment;
- ◆ School Building Assistance. Support the MMA sponsored amendment to strike SBA reform from the budget at this time, so that adequate consideration of these concerns can occur;
- ◆ Water Pollution Abatement & Drinking Water Projects. Support the MMA sponsored amendment to strike Sections 51 and 52 from H. 5100;
- ◆ Medicaid Reimbursements. Support the MMA-sponsored amendment to strike Section 64 of H. 5100; and be it further

ORDERED: That the City Clerk be and hereby is requested to transmit to Cambridge legislative delegation, Representative Paul R. Haley, Chair of the House Ways and Means Committee, Senator Mark C. Montigny, Chair of the Senate Ways and Means Committee, Governor Cellucci and Speaker Finneran.

In City Council April 10, 2000.

Adopted by the affirmative vote of eight members.

Attest:- D. Margaret Drury, City Clerk.

A true copy;

ATTEST:-

D. Margaret Drury

D. Margaret Drury
 City Clerk

MMA Action



HOUSE BUDGET RESTORES \$48M IN ADDITIONAL ASSISTANCE, IMPROVES CHAPTER 70 OVER GOVERNOR, UNDERFUNDS CHAPTER 90, CHANGES SBA

The House Committee on Ways and Means has recommended a budget bill for next year, H. 5100, that restores the \$48 million that the Governor had cut from Additional Assistance, adds \$27 million more than the Governor's recommendation for Chapter 70, but does not include a necessary \$50 million appropriation to supplement existing Chapter 90 bond authorizations.

The House will begin debating the budget on Monday April 10. **Please call your Representatives today thank them for their past support and urge them to support the Committee's recommendations on Additional Assistance and Lottery aid. In addition the MMA has filed seven key amendments to budget. Please ask your Representatives to support the MMA sponsored amendments on:**

- **Chapter 70 School Aid.** The MMA appreciates the proposed increase in Chapter 70 school aid above Governor's amount. The H. 5100 plan would increase minimum aid to \$175 per student, although it would result in "no growth" or "low growth" in school aid for a large number of school districts. This would hurt education programs in these districts. Ask your Representatives to support the MMA sponsored amendment to provide "true" minimum aid increases for all school districts;
- **Special Education Reform.** On the extremely sensitive issue of special education reform, the MMA continues our longstanding support for the comprehensive special education reform, including the change in the service standard from maximum feasible benefit to a free and appropriate public education (the so-called FAPE or federal standard). In addition, while the MMA greatly appreciates the additional \$25 million in special education funding proposed in H. 5100, we do advocate expanding that cost-sharing plan by an additional \$45 million, given the huge financial burden that special education will continue to place on regular education budgets. Ask your Representatives to support the special education reforms and adopt the MMA funding amendment;
- **Chapter 90 Local Road Program.** The Chapter 90 program needs at least \$50 million in funding in the fiscal 2001 operating budget to complement bond-financed authorizations approved by the Legislature last year. The MMA sponsored amendment would add \$50 million in cash for the Chapter 90 road program and direct the governor to release \$100 million in bond authorizations to bring the total fiscal 2001 authorization up to \$150 million. Ask your Representative to support the \$50 million Chapter 90 amendment;

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- **School Building Assistance.** Cities and towns support a careful review of the School Building Assistance (SBA) program this year, but have concerns about many key changes included in H. 5100. Some of the proposals in H. 5100 would improve the current system, for example, by allowing greater flexibility for renovating buildings. Yet many of the sections need more review, including those that would limit local authority to issue bonds, change the reimbursement schedule without a clear understanding of the impact on each community, and provide only limited "grandfathering" of projects that are moving through the local approval process. Ask your Representative to ~~Vote for the~~ MMA sponsored amendment to strike SBA reform from the budget at this time, so that adequate consideration of these concerns can occur;

Support the

- **Water Pollution Abatement & Drinking Water Projects.** Sections 51 and 52 would dramatically increase the costs and reduce state subsidies for cities and towns for water and sewer projects by repealing the current "0%" interest program and putting in its place a 2% interest charge. This change would reduce the state's share of qualified water and sewer projects from 50% of the cost of a project to approximately 30% to 35%. Ask your Representative to Support the MMA sponsored amendment to strike these Sections from H. 5100;

51 and 52

- **Medicaid Reimbursements.** Section 64 of H. 5100 would require that 50 percent of all Medicaid reimbursements received by a city or town be turned over to the local school committee for expenditure without appropriation. Cities and towns currently pay special education costs through appropriations to the school department budget, often in anticipation of receiving these reimbursements. This section would undermine local decision-making and financial accountability. Ask your Representative to vote for the MMA-sponsored amendment to strike this Section 64 of H. 5100

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Support

PLEASE CALL YOUR REPRESENTATIVES TODAY!!!!

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COUNCILLOR DAVIS

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ORDERED: That the City Council support the House Ways and Means Committee budget as ~~attached~~ and transmit to Cambridge legislative delegation, Budget Chairs, Governor Cellucci and Speaker Finneran; and be it further

ORDERED: That the City Clerk be and hereby is requested to transmit this order to the above named people as soon as possible.

RECOMMENDED

BY THE

MASS. MUNICIPAL

ASSN.

on the foregoing matters ~~to be~~ before

Chapin to School Aid:

Special Education VU9

Chap



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Attest:- D. Margaret Drury, City Clerk.

A true copy;

ATTEST:-

D. Margaret Drury
 City Clerk

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Order #13

Support recommendations of the
MMA for certain portions of the
House Ways and Means Committee
budget.

**Councillor Davis and entire
membership**

In City Council April 10, 2000

ORDER ADOPTED