



For Immediate Release  
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Rep. William Straus  
Staff Contact 617-722-2080

**REPRESENTATIVE STRAUS  
ANNOUNCES STATE TO DISTRIBUTE \$75 MILLION OF UNRESTRICTED  
LOCAL AID IN SUPPLEMENTAL BUDGET**

**BOSTON, MA** – Representative Straus, today announced that the House has passed a supplemental appropriations bill today that provides \$75 million in one-time unrestricted local aid to cities and towns in the Commonwealth.

“This additional local aid funding is unrestricted financial assistance that will go directly to cities and towns and can be spent as those cities and towns see fit,” said Representative Straus. “As such, communities can use these funds to enhance local funding on public education, public safety, elder services and public works – services that are vital in every sense of the word.”

Under the supplemental appropriations bill that was passed, \$559,081 in local aid funds will be distributed to Fairhaven, Mattapoisett, Marion, Middleboro and Rochester in Representative Straus’s district. Specifically, Fairhaven will receive \$203,075, Marion \$24,567, Mattapoisett \$40,804, Middleboro \$248,174 and Rochester \$42,461.

Other highlights of the Supplemental Budget include \$11.9 million for substance abuse treatment spending; \$32 million for higher education contractual obligations; \$3.3 million to launch two additional MCAS exam this spring in science and history; \$1 million for a GPS system to track sex offenders; \$16.8 million to raise the hourly pay rates of court-appointed defense attorneys; \$15 million to hospitals for Medicaid payments;

“One of the most important parts of this budget was to put \$336 million back into the state’s reserve account,” stated Straus. “Even though we are now able to enhance our commitment to cities and towns with local aid, it is vital to the state’s bond rating and fiscal health to replenish the rainy day fund because we are clearly not out of the fiscal woods yet,” continued Straus.

The legislature's commitment to fiscal responsibility resulted in a rainy day fund that held in excess of \$2.2 billion as the economic downturn began in 2001. Without those reserves the budget impact during the worst of the recession would have been devastating. By putting funds back into reserves, the legislature is balancing its obligation to help cities and towns as well as exercising fiscal caution.

The appropriations bill now goes to Governor Romney's desk for his consideration.