



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
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STRAUS TO TAKE VOLUNTARY FURLOUGH

BOSTON— State Representative Bill Straus of Mattapoisett announced today he will be taking a voluntary furlough. This announcement comes after Speaker of the House Robert DeLeo announced all House staff would be required to take a five day furlough to help tighten the budget gap.

The members of the House are not constitutionally obligated to take a furlough; however Representative Straus said everyone needs to share in the sacrifice as state lawmakers work on proposals to restore the state's finances.

“Massachusetts is in the middle of the same economic crisis which began nation-wide in 2008 Straus said. “The people I represent are all making sacrifices and doing what they can to get through this situation. By voluntarily reducing my own pay by over a thousand dollars during this fiscal year I believe I am making a contribution toward this issue”, he added. Straus also voted as a part of the current state budget to increase the contribution toward health insurance which he and other state employees have withheld from their own pay.

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