

SUMMARY OF SENATE WAYS & MEANS FY2020 SUPPLEMENTAL BUDGET FOR COVID-19 RESPONSE

Title: An Act Making Appropriations for the Fiscal Year 2020 to Authorize Certain COVID-19 Spending in Anticipation of Federal Reimbursement

Number: [S.2789](#)

History: 05/12/2020: Original version of bill filed by Gov. Baker ([H.4707](#))
05/13/2020: Referred to HWM
06/22/2020: HWM refers bill out in part as H.4802
06/25/2020: House passes the bill ([H.4808](#))
06/29/2020: Senate Ways & Means releases budget proposal (S.2789)

S.2789 is a \$1.1 billion COVID-19 response supplemental budget for FY2020 released by the Senate Committee on Ways & Means on June 29, 2020. S.2789 is the Senate proposal of the supplemental budget originally proposed by the Governor and passed by the House. The Senate is expected to pass the supplemental budget on Thursday, July 2.

S.2789 creates two reserve funds at the Executive Office of Administration and Finance (A&F) to authorize certain COVID-19 related spending in anticipation of federal reimbursement. The reserve funds are:

- 1599-1231 – \$1 billion reserve fund available until June 30, 2020; and
- 1599-1232 – \$105 million reserve fund available until June 30, 2021.

The language for the reserve funds directs appropriations to specific programs, including critical affordable housing and homelessness prevention resources, as well as many important social safety net programs.

S.2789 authorizes many budget programs to continue unexpended FY2020 funds into FY2021, including rental assistance programs.

The following summary focuses on the affordable housing related items in the S.2789.

Directed Funds for Affordable & Public Housing, Emergency Shelter, & Homelessness Prevention

S.2789 contains funding for several programs related to affordable and public housing, emergency shelter, and homelessness prevention.

The 1599-1231 reserve fund directs no less than the following amounts:

- \$13.5 million for **local housing authorities** (7004-9005)
- \$2.5 million for **family and individual shelters** (7004-0101 & 7004-0102)
- \$85 million for **field hospitals and shelters**

The 1599-1232 reserve fund directs no less than the following amounts:

- \$8 million for **family and individual shelters** (7004-0101 & 7004-0102)
- \$20 million for **Residential Assistance for Families in Transition (RAFT)** (7004-9316) for COVID-19 RAFT Response (CRR). The CRR program:
 - Allows households to receive up to \$10,000 in assistance
 - Directs 33% of CRR funds to extremely low-income households
 - Directs 50% of funds to be prioritized to those families most likely to require family shelter services (7004-0101)
- \$1.5 million for **Housing Consumer Education Centers** (7004-3036)
- \$5.8 million for **Permanent Supportive Housing** (7004-0104)
- \$1 million for **Unaccompanied Homeless Youth** (4000-0007)

Carry Over Funds for Rental Assistance and Emergency Shelter

S.2789 allows unexpended funds from FY2020 to carry over into FY2021 for:

- The **Massachusetts Rental Voucher Program (MRVP)** (7004-9024)
- The **Alternative Housing Voucher Program (AHVP)** (7004-9030)
- **Emergency Assistance** – Family Shelters (7004-0101)