

SUMMARY OF SENATE 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](#))
06/22/2020: HWM reports bill out in part as [H.4802](#)
06/25/2020: House passes its budget proposal ([H.4808](#))
06/29/2020: Senate Ways & Means releases budget proposal, S.2789, as an amendment to H.4808
07/02/2020: Senate passes its budget proposal, S.2789.

On July 2, the Senate passed its supplemental budget, S.2789, a \$1.1 billion COVID-19 response supplemental budget for FY2020. The Senate sent S.2789 to the House as an amendment to H.4808. The House must now vote to accept the Senate budget or work out another agreement with the Senate to pass a final budget before sending it to the Governor.

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

The following summary focuses on the affordable housing, public housing, emergency shelter, and homelessness prevention related items in 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, which is available until June 30, 2020, 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, which is until June 30, 2021, 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)