

*An Act to Further Address Challenges Faced by Municipalities,
School Districts and State Authorities Resulting from COVID-19*

MBTA Budget Date Change (Sections 1 and 2)

- These two sections amend the date by which the MBTA board must approve a preliminary budget from March 15th to May 15th and also amend the date by which the MBTA must submit a final budget to the advisory board from April 15th to June 15th.

Supportive Housing Programs Funding Flexibility (Section 3)

- This section allows for FY20 funding appropriated for rapid transition of homeless individuals into sustainable permanent housing (7004-0202) to be used for homelessness programs to assist individuals who are homeless or in danger of becoming homeless administered by direct service providers (7004-0102).

MRVP Applicant Verification (Section 4)

- This section allows, to the maximum extent possible, suspensions, waivers, delays, or simplification of in-person verification requirements for Massachusetts Rental Voucher Program applicants as of March 10, 2020.

RAFT Applicant Verification (Section 5)

- This section allows, to the maximum extent possible, suspensions, waivers, delays, or simplification of in person verification requirements for Residential Assistance for Families in Transition applicants as of March 10, 2020.

DESE High School Graduation Competency Waiver (Section 6)

- This section permits the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education, upon the Commissioner's recommendation, to modify or waive high school graduation competency requirements as a result of the outbreak of COVID-19.

DESE MCAS Waiver Requirement (Section 7)

- This section requires the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education to waive MCAS requirements for the 2019-2020 academic year as a result of the outbreak of COVID-19.

Regional School District Interim Budgets (Section 8)

- Permits the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education to certify a 1/12 budget for the operation of a school district starting on July 1, 2020 and for subsequent months, as needed, in the event that a vote on the approval of the district's budget is delayed beyond June 30, 2020 as a result of the outbreak of COVID-19.

Student Opportunity Act 3-Year Plan Filing Extension (Section 9)

- This section requires the Commissioner of Elementary and Secondary to extend the deadline for school districts to submit the required 3-year plans to address educational disparities in student subgroups to May 15, 2020, or a later date, as determined by the Commissioner as a result of the outbreak of COVID-19.