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.