I disapprove Sections 99 and 121.

I reduce the following items in Section 2E to the following amounts:

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| --- | --- | --- |
| Section 2E | Reduce By | Reduce To |
|  |  |  |
| 1595-6370 | 3,500,000 | 90,500,000 |

I reduce the following items in Section 2 to the following amounts, and disapprove the wording as indicated:

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Section 2 | Reduce By | Reduce To | Wording Stricken |
|  |  |  |  |
| 2310-0200 | 100,000 | 16,081,737 | "; provided, that not less than $100,000 shall be expended to the New England Wildlife Center, Inc. in the city known as the town of Weymouth for costs associated with the care, treatment and maintenance of wildlife" |
| 2511-0100 | 50,000 | 9,176,466 | "; provided further, that not less than $50,000 shall be expended for the creation and operation of a commission consisting of the following members: the commissioner of environmental protection, or a designee, who shall serve as chair; the commissioner of agricultural resources, or a designee; the commissioner of public health, or a designee; the director of the division of fisheries and wildlife, or a designee; and a representative of a land trust or other group with expertise in invasive plant management, who shall be designated by the joint committee on environment, natural resources and agriculture; provided further, that such commission shall conduct a scientific review of the potential impacts of glyphosate and its most common alternative herbicides on the environment and public health, including a review, undertaken in collaboration with the natural heritage and endangered species program, of the potential impacts of glyphosate and most common alternative herbicides on: (i) all species of plants and animals that have been determined to be endangered, threatened, or of special concern pursuant to chapter 131A of the General Laws; and (ii) all significant habitats designated pursuant to said chapter 131A; provided further, that the commission may expend any portion of its funds it deems necessary to enable the collaboration of the natural heritage and endangered species program; provided further, that the pesticide subcommittee established under section 3A of chapter 132B of the General Laws shall use said scientific review as part of an individual review conducted under 333 C.M.R. 8.03 to determine whether current uses of glyphosate pose unreasonable adverse effects to the environment, and whether current registered uses of glyphosate should be altered or suspended; provided further, that the department shall submit the results of both the scientific review and individual review to the joint committee on environment, natural resources and agriculture no later than December 31, 2021" |
| 5011-0100 | 150,000 | 30,023,790 | "; provided, that not less than $150,000 shall be expended for the children's behavioral health advisory council to conduct an analysis of and report on the existing and anticipated impacts of the 2019 novel coronavirus pandemic on children's behavioral health and the associated provision of services and supports as directed under section 121" |
| 7004-0101 | 150,000 | 196,810,750 | "; provided further, that the department shall submit quarterly reports to the house and senate committees on ways and means containing the most recently available monthly data on the number of families in congregate or other shared shelter placements and the number of families on extended leave from congregate or other shared shelter placements for purposes of social distancing, isolation, quarantine or care of self or another family member related to the 2019 novel coronavirus; provided further, that the department shall submit quarterly reports, broken down by month, to the house and senate committees on ways and means with the most recently available monthly data, including data on the race and ethnicity of all families where available and applicable expressed as a percentage of the total, on: (I) applications for services provided for in this item and in item 7004-0108 as well as requests for services under this item and item 7008-0108, with a request for services defined as any point at which the household seeking services provides information to the department as part of any enrollment, triage, or eligibility determination, regardless of whether a formal application is completed and regardless of whether the contact is by telephone, by office visit, or by other means; (II) front-door entries into the emergency assistance system; (III) applications and requests for services provided in this item and in item 7004-0108 that are denied and the bases of all such denials expressed as a percentage of the total; (IV) applications and requests for services provided for in this item and in item 7004-0108 that do not result in a formal denial, a front-door entry into the emergency assistance system or verified diversion as a result of HomeBASE household assistance expressed as a percentage of the total; (V) the number of households submitting multiple applications or making multiple requests for services within the previous 1-month period and the previous 6- month period; (VI) diversions as a result of HomeBASE household assistance; (VII) exits from the emergency assistance system, delineated by reason for exit, including at-fault terminations, exits because the household is no longer income eligible, exits through HomeBASE household assistance with no other subsidy and exits to another subsidized or otherwise assisted housing program; (VIII) the number of applications and requests that do not result in the household entering emergency assistance shelter within 48 hours and for which such nonentry is attributable to written denial, pending documentation or verification, no imminent homelessness or household withdrawal of the application; (IX) the number of families transitioned from shelter benefits to affordable, subsidized or otherwise assisted housing through this program; (X) the average, minimum and maximum cost per family of said housing assistance and of emergency assistance under this item; (XI) the number of families served who required further assistance under this item or under item 7004-0108 at a later date; (XII) the type of assistance later required and provided; (XIII) the total number of families receiving assistance under this item or item 7004-0108 that have received assistance under said items during each of the previous 3 years; (XIV) the number of children served under this item broken down by age; (XV) the number of applications and requests from households that became homeless within 12 months of depleting their HomeBASE assistance under item 7004-0108; (XVI) the reasons for homelessness in the applications and requests received under clause (XV) and the number of applications and requests received under said clause (XV) that are denied; and (XVII) the average and maximum length of stay for families currently staying in an emergency assistance shelter placement; provided further, that said reports shall also include the following information from the department of children and families: (i) the number of families assessed for a health and safety risk in the previous quarter; (ii) the number of families determined to be at a substantial health and safety risk; (iii) the number of families receiving multiple health and safety assessments within the previous 6-month period; and (iv) the standards used to determine a substantial health and safety risk; provided further, that the department shall report quarterly to the house and senate committees on ways and means on: (a) the number of families that applied for a transfer from their current shelter placement to a unit that can accommodate their disability-related needs, delineated by reason for the application; (b) the number of families whose applications for reasonable accommodation have been approved but that are waiting for transfer due to lack of available units able to accommodate their disability-related needs, delineated by category of accommodation including, but not limited to, access to cooking facilities, first-floor or elevator access, noncarpeted unit, physical modification to unit, scattered site unit, geographic proximity to service providers and wheelchair accessibility; (c) the number of families currently in shelter units located more than 20 miles away from their home community; (d) the number of families with at least 1 child who attends a school other than the child’s school of origin as a result of placement in a shelter unit outside of their home community; and (e) both the average and maximum number of days that families spend in placements under the circumstances described in clauses (b) to (d), inclusive, before being transferred to a shelter unit for which none of the circumstances in said clauses (b) to (d), inclusive, apply; (f) the percentage of applications for a transfer that were approved; and (g) the average number of days and the maximum number of days between the application submission and the approval"  and  "; provided further, that funds appropriated for this item in fiscal year 2021 shall not revert but shall be made available for this item for these purposes in fiscal year 2022; provided further, the department of housing and community development shall distribute said funds to those currently contracted emergency assistance family shelter providers with shelter operating gaps identified by the fiscal year 2020 uniform financial report submitted to the operational services division and with operating deficits that are attributable to: (1) shelter maintenance and unit supply costs, (2) unit rental rates that are not aligned to regional fair market rents and (3) professional shelter staff compensation and benefits that are not commensurate with compensation and benefit rates determined by geographic region for similar professional positions, as denoted by the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the United States Department of Labor; provided further, that not later than December 31, 2021, the department shall submit a report to the joint committee on housing detailing the distribution of supplemental funds based on identified operating gaps and deficits"  and  "; provided further, that not less than $150,000 shall be made available for the creation of an independent ombudsman’s office within the executive office of housing and economic development to receive, investigate and resolve complaints brought by applicants to and participants of the emergency assistance shelter program and related short-term housing transition program under this item and item 7004-0108; provided further, that the ombudsman’s office shall act as an independent mediator and advocate for all applicants and participants in instances including, but not limited to, concerns regarding document requests, inability to contact the department by telephone, delays in placement and denials of services; provided further, that the ombudsman’s office shall have access to all initiated, partially completed and completed applications in order to assess applicants’ and participants’ requests as well as all submitted documentation and case information, including shelter provider notes, domestic violence assessments and sub-contracted provider notes; provided further, that not later than March 1, 2022, the ombudsman’s office shall submit a report to the joint committee on children, families and persons with disabilities and the house and senate committees on ways and means; provided further, that the report shall include, but not be limited to, the following information pertaining to requests for the ombudsman’s services: (A) the number of requests received in the preceding 12-month period, delineated by the program the household is applying for or participating in and including available demographic information of those requesting assistance; (B) the number of requests that pertained to issues arising during the application process; (C) the number of requests that pertained to participants’ experiences at any time after initial entry into the program in question; (D) the nature of the requests; (E) the resolution of the requests; and (F) the average, maximum and minimum length of time for requests to be resolved for each program" |
| 7061-9010 | 2,900,000 | 151,704,742 | "; and provided further, that not less than $2,900,000 shall be expended to ensure that any municipality with a school district which has its total tuition capped by the net school spending provisions of said section 89 of said chapter 71, shall receive a non-pro- rated reimbursement of 100 per cent of its required reimbursement amount under this section" |
| 8200-0200 | 1,000,000 | 3,577,545 | "; and provided further, that not less than $1,000,000 shall be expended to address costs incurred by municipalities for officer training requirements as promulgated by chapter 253 of the acts of 2020" |

I disapprove in the following items in Section 2 the wording as indicated:

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| --- | --- |
| Section 2 | Wording Stricken |
|  |  |
| 2000-0101 | "; provided further, that not later than February 3, 2022, the executive office shall submit a report to the house and senate committees on ways and means that shall include, but not be limited to: (1) the number of full-time equivalent positions assigned to the executive office's environmental justice staff; (2) the responsibilities held by the executive office's environmental justice staff; and (3) the status of environmental justice policies, strategies and initiatives being pursued for both the current and coming fiscal years" |
| 7004-0102 | "; provided further, that the full amount appropriated in this item shall be allocated to contracted service providers of homeless individuals in fiscal year 2020" |
| 7004-9316 | "; provided further, that $4,725,768 from the Housing Preservation and Stabilization Trust Fund established under section 60 of chapter 121B of the General Laws shall be made available to this item in addition to the amount appropriated" |
| 8900-0001 | "; provided further, that given the continued prevalence and threat of the 2019 novel coronavirus within department of correction facilities, the commissioner of correction shall release, transition to home confinement or furlough individuals in the care and custody of the department who can be safely released, transitioned to home confinement or furloughed with prioritization given to populations most vulnerable to serious medical outcomes associated with the 2019 novel coronavirus according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s guidelines; provided further, that the department shall consider, but shall not be limited to considering: (a) the use of home confinement without exclusion under chapter 211F of the General Laws; (b) the expedition of medical parole petition review by superintendents and the commissioner; (c) the use of furlough; (d) the maximization of good time by eliminating mandates for participation in programming for those close to their release dates; and (e) awarding credits to provide further remission from time of sentence for time served during periods of declared public health emergencies impacting the operation of prisons"  and  ", and shall have access to information related to the department’s use of the mechanisms for release, home confinement or furlough stated in this item"  and  "; (2) the department’s efforts taken relative to safe depopulation relative to the 2019 novel coronavirus"  and  "; (4) the amount of population reduction achieved to-date by the use of the mechanisms for release, home confinement or furlough stated in this item"  and  "; provided further, that the Disability Law Center, Inc. may investigate the physical environment of those facilities, including infrastructure issues, and may use methods including, but not limited to, testing and sampling the physical and environmental conditions, whether or not they are utilized by patients or inmates; provided further, that the Disability Law Center, Inc. may monitor the continuity of care for Bridgewater state hospital persons served who are discharged to county correctional facilities or department of mental health facilities, including assessment of the efficacy of admission, discharge and transfer planning procedures and coordination between the department of correction, Wellpath LLC, the department of mental health and county correctional facilities; provided further, that not less than once every 6 months, the Disability Law Center, Inc. shall report on the impact of these reforms on those served at Bridgewater state hospital to the joint committee on mental health, substance use and recovery, the joint committee on the judiciary, the house and senate committees on ways and means, the senate president and the speaker of the house of representatives" |

I disapprove in the following items in Section 2E the wording as indicated:

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| --- | --- |
| Section 2E | Wording Stricken |
|  |  |
| 1595-6369 | "; provided further, that the reports shall include the status of ongoing and planned capital projects under the purview of the authority"  and  "; provided further, that the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority shall initiate an effort to advance the planning and design of not more than 6 infrastructure projects related to decarbonization, regional rail electrification, increased transit capacity and improved equity in the public transportation system to identify, develop and prepare projects ready to take advantage of anticipated federal infrastructure funding opportunities; and provided further, that, not later than October 1, 2021, the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority shall begin to submit quarterly reports on the design details of and spending on projects associated with this effort to the joint committee on transportation and the house and senate committees on ways and means" |

I return for amendment, pursuant to the authority vested in me by Article 56, as amended by Article 90, Section 3, of the Amendments to the Constitution, Sections 6, 7, 8, 12, 18, 23, 30, 32, 33, 34, 39, 42, 47, 67, 74, 102, 103, 113, 116, 117, 119, 128, 129, 135 and 145. The text of my recommended amendments is set forth in separate letters of this date to the Senate and House of Representatives.

The remainder of this bill I approve.

Approved, July 16, 2021

at o’clock and minutes, .M.

Charles D. Baker

Governor