

Category	Bill	MTA Support	Mass Promise Support	Project 211 support	Would help Amherst/AR PS?	Sponsors
<p>*** Charter Tuition Reimbursement</p> <p>(top bill that would help Amherst/ARPS)</p>	<p>https://malegislature.gov/Bills/194/HD4439/Bills - An Act to Amend Charter School Tuition Reimbursements (Mass Promise) – Shifts cost of tuition reimbursement from local communities to the Commonwealth for low and moderate income communities.</p> <p>Estimated Funding benefit using FY25 data Amherst public school \$1.58 million Amherst-Pelham Regional \$1.7 million</p>		Yes		Yes	Gomez (Easthampton), Sabadosa
<p>Charter Tuition Reimbursement</p>	<p>https://malegislature.gov/Bills/194/HD2825 - Charter tuition reimbursement bill adding 4th year to schedule - Complementary to HD4439 as new schedule would help those not helped under HD4439.</p> <p>Amherst Minimum funding benefit of \$70,000 (likely \$100,000) Amherst-Pelham Minimum funding benefit of \$35,000 (likely \$50,000)</p>	Yes (they filed it)	Yes		Yes – but minimally	Rep Fluker Reid Senator Robyn Kennedy 14 others

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Rural Schools	<p>https://malegislature.gov/Bills/194/SD2178 rural schools bill - Increases support for rural school districts through a variety of means, including through the establishment of several funds to provide additional financial resources that help address their unique fiscal challenges. Current statewide rural aid is \$15 million, this bill aims to increase it to \$60 million.</p> <p>Rural aid Current FY25 (if rural schools bill passes) Shutesbury \$82,000 (\$328,000) Pelham \$30,000 (\$120,000) Leverett \$47,000 (\$188,000) Amherst-Pelham \$248,000 (\$942,00)</p>	Yes	Yes	Yes	ARPS – yes, Amherst -no	<p>Senator Comerford, Representative Blais and 20 other legislators</p> <p>Mindy Domb has signed on</p>
Commission for funding equity	<p>https://malegislature.gov/Bills/194/SD1912/Bills Study funding equity – establishes a commission to study equity in state school funding (Sen. Comerford co-sponsor)</p> <p>No funding benefit, but this is to study the funding equity</p>		Yes	Yes	Maybe, Eventually	<p>Senator Comerford</p> <p>Senator Lewis</p>

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Regional Transportation	<p>https://malegislature.gov/Bills/194/HD913 Regional Transportation - Requires the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education to annually request full funding for regional school transportation reimbursements, which historically have been underfunded.</p> <p>FY25 Regional Trans in ARPS was \$950,000 funded at 90%? If correct, reimbursement fully funded would be \$1,055,555 - gain is \$105,555</p>	Yes	Not yet, but will		ARPS - yes, but Regional trans already mostly funded	<p>Representative Margaret R. Scarsdale , Representative Kristin E. Kassner</p> <p>and 14 others</p>
Regional Transportation	<p>https://malegislature.gov/Bills/194/HD2256 An Act Changing Regional School Transportation Reimbursement Law - This bills strikes out "subject to appropriation" language, changes frequency of payments, and ensures payments do not fall below amount paid previous fiscal year</p> <p>FY25 Regional Trans in ARPS was \$950,000 funded at 90%? If correct, reimbursement fully funded would be \$1,055,555 - gain is \$105,555</p>			Yes	ARPS - yes, but Regional trans already mostly funded	<p>Representative John J. Marsi</p>

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<p>In-district Transportation</p>	<p>https://malegislature.gov/Bills/194/HD1734 - Non Regional Transportation - Since school districts, other than regional school districts do not currently receive reimbursements for transportation, this bill creates a four-year funding schedule for reimbursements for in-district school transportation, both for regular day and in-district special education programs. These reimbursements are already required under state law but have not been funded for two decades. Under this legislation, reimbursements will start with 25 percent of the total state obligation in FY26 before reaching 100 percent in FY29.</p> <p>Would need numbers directly from the district to determine impact.</p>	yes	Not yet, but will		Yes? Unclear how much or what exactly would be covered.	<p>Rep</p> <p>James K. Hawkins</p> <p>Rep Sabadosa</p> <p>Senator Oliveira and 13 others</p>

Special Education Circuit Breaker	<p>https://malegislature.gov/Bills/194/HD3759 - Special Education Circuit Breaker - Increases the reimbursement rate for the Special Education Circuit Breaker program from 75 percent to 90 percent of eligible special education costs, lowers the cost threshold for expenses to become eligible for reimbursement under the program and creates a commission to study and make recommendations on special education funding in the Commonwealth.</p> <p>*Increasing the special education circuit breaker is asymmetrical funding. Yes it benefits Amherst, but the largest per capita beneficiaries are districts that are large and have higher claims per capita like Cambridge. This bill increases funding inequity in the State, costs a lot of money and the funding benefit to Amherst may not be significant.</p>	Yes	No	No	Yes*	Rep Adam J. Scanlon , Rep Michael P. Kushmerek Senator Oliveira and 12 others
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<p>Mental Health & Related services</p>	<p>https://malegislature.gov/Bills/194/HD2223 - Whole Child Grant Program - Creates a formula grant to provide per-pupil funding to public school districts to hire more school counselors, education support professionals and other educators, and allow for other critical investments that support the wellbeing of students and educators.</p> <p>*This is a per pupil funding bill, the largest per capita beneficiaries will be large urban wealthy districts</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>no</p>		<p>Yes*</p>	<p>Lead Sponsors: Rep. Marjorie Decker (D-Cambridge) Sen. Adam Gomez (D-Springfield) and 11 others</p>
<p>Chapter 70 Inflation</p>	<p>https://malegislature.gov/Bills/194/HD2334 - An Act to fix the Chapter 70 inflation adjustment</p> <p>The funding benefit to Amherst public schools is zero dollars, the benefit to Amherst-Pelham is zero dollars</p>	<p>yes</p>	<p>no</p>		<p>no</p>	<p>Lead Sponsors: Rep. Orlando Ramos (D-Springfield) Sen. Robyn Kennedy (D-Worcester) and 9 others</p>
<p>Foundation Budget/Chapter 70</p>	<p>https://malegislature.gov/Bills/194/SD1237 increasing foundation budget</p> <p>Reduces the required contribution of Town of Amherst/Four member towns but that benefit trades with existing hold harmless status. No direct funding increase for Amherst or Amherst-Pelham because districts too deep into hold harmless.</p>		<p>Yes</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>No</p>	<p>Senator Lewis Senator Comerford</p>

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Special Education	https://malegislature.gov/Bills/194/SD2149 Creates a commission to study special education funding					Senators Comerford, Oliveria and seven more legislators
Charter tuition reimbursement	https://malegislature.gov/Bills/194/HD488 Being supported by the Mass Municipal Association - exact formula and mechanism not yet clear thus impossible to model the impact on Amherst/Amherst-Pelham districts. Based on preliminary info, this bill may disproportionately benefit larger per-capita districts and have less impact on Amherst/Amherst-Pelham.					Representative Cabral