

MCOA Membership

As we prepare for Wednesday's release of the FY11 HWM Budget, MCOA is pursuing \$8,115,068 for Line Item #9110-9002.

As we discussed in the past this will mark a 6% cut from FY10 GAA but it does reflect House 2, Governor Patrick's FY11 Proposal.

We recognize that FY11 will be difficult which is why we accept the Governor's proposed reduction to \$8,115,068. This cut eliminates most of the Service Incentive Program but maintains the much needed \$7/elder/YEAR Formula Grant.

We have communicated this position with all members of the House via a letter now posted on our website www.mcoaonline.com - see **MCOA Open Letter to the Legislature**

If the FY11 HWM version of the budget is lower than \$8.1m, the membership of MCOA has instructed me to actively pursue a floor amendment.

According to previously published reports, the budget is slated to increase about 3.2% overall over FY10 but Local Aid could be cut up to 4%.

The HWM Proposal will be available sometime around noon on Wednesday, April 14th at www.mass.gov/legis scroll down about half way to the FY11 Budget Proposal link.

If the \$ for line item #9110-9002- Local Aide to Municipal COAs is lower than \$8,115,068 we will begin to solicit co-sponsors for a floor amendment to raise it to that amount by asking you to contact your Representatives to be co-sponsors. We will need at least 90 of the 160 members by 5pm Friday April 16th to have an impact. Their contact information can also be found at www.mass.gov/legis - look on the left side on that home page

Instructions will follow by early afternoon Wednesday- either way...Stay tuned- look for an email with this in the subject line: **MCOA Circulation: Legislative Alert FY11- #2A- The HWM Proposal**

Thanks for your attention to this matter.

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STATE CAPITOL BRIEFS (AFTERNOON EDITION) – MONDAY, APRIL 12, 2010

STATE HOUSE NEWS SERVICE

HOUSE BUDGET ROLLOUT PLANNED

Amidst the hoopla over this week's expected House vote on casino and slot machine legislation, the House Ways and Means Committee plans to roll out its fiscal 2011 budget bill on Wednesday. The committee holds an executive session at 10:30 a.m. in Room B-2 to vote on its bill, which will be discussed by the full House in a private caucus at 11 a.m. At 1 p.m. in Room A-2, House budget committee members will discuss their spending plan with the media. The committee also plans to vote on state debt restructuring legislation, a controversial proposal that is also part of Gov. Deval Patrick's fiscal 2011 budget-balancing plans, as well as a so-called municipal relief bill aimed at giving cities and towns new strategies to deal with budget deficits in the face of ongoing local aid cuts. The muni-relief bill endorsed by the Municipalities Committee boost auto inspection fees and does not include a controversial health plan design reform sought by municipal officials but resisted by public employee unions. The Municipalities Committee bill permits cities and towns to spread winter road-clearing payments out over the next two years, forgives tax scofflaws of penalties if they agree to pay what they owe, and establishes a loan program for homeowners to install solar panels or make other renewable energy improvements. It also enables cities and towns to offer early retirement to certain workers, a plan favored by Gov. Patrick. It would permit extended pension funding schedules, an effort to avoid cost spikes to make up for recent investment losses. The legislation also enables municipalities to partner with neighboring cities and towns - including those just over state borders - to share public safety services, encourages the consolidation of school districts and allows residents to pay local bills online. House budget writers have cautioned cities and towns to expect a local aid cut in next year's budget, despite predictions of rising state tax collections.