

# FREEDOM INDEX.US

## LEGISLATIVE SCORECARD

BASED ON THE THE U.S. CONSTITUTION

The Legislative Scorecard is a nationwide, nonpartisan educational program of The John Birch Society intended to inform voters about legislators' voting records. It does not promote any candidate or political party. Bills are chosen for their constitutional implications and taxpayer costs.



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## Patricia D. Jehlen

Massachusetts

Senator, SD-02-MID (D)

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Lifetime  
Freedom  
Score

## MA Legislative Scorecard 2025

Based on the Principles of the U.S. Constitution

| ★ Constitutional                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | ✗ Unconstitutional | ? Did not Vote | Vote     |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|----------------|----------|
| 1. <b>H4240 State Budget</b> (Passed 38 to 2 on 06/30/2025). The Fiscal Year 2026 \$60.9 Billion state budget increases spending by about \$3.2 billion over the previous budget, funding universal access to pre-kindergarten, increasing the Commonwealth Transportation Fund, and implementing the Affordable Homes Act.<br><b>Estimated cost per household: -\$2,186.68/year.</b> |                    |                | YES<br>✗ |
| 2. <b>S2543 Gender-mutilation Surgery</b> (Passed 37 to 3 on 07/31/2025). Increases legal protection for "reproductive" and "gender-affirming" services in Massachusetts.                                                                                                                                                                                                             |                    |                | YES<br>✗ |
| 3. <b>S2640 Access to Menstrual Products</b> (Passed 39 to 0 on 10/16/2025). Amends various chapters of the General Laws to require that disposable menstrual products be made available at no cost to "menstruating individuals" in family shelters, public schools, jails, and correctional facilities.                                                                             |                    |                | YES<br>✗ |
| 4. <b>H4240 Family Resource Centers</b> (Passed 35 to 3 on 10/23/2025). Allocates \$500,000 for the operation and support of a network of child and family service programs throughout the commonwealth, including family resource centers.<br><b>Estimated cost per household: -\$0.18/year.</b>                                                                                     |                    |                | YES<br>✗ |
| 5. <b>S2696 Obscene Books in Libraries</b> (Passed 35 to 3 on 11/13/2025). Establishes policies regulating the removal of library materials in public schools and libraries in Massachusetts, and mandates new procedures to ensure that challenges to obscene materials do not result in automatic removal.                                                                          |                    |                | YES<br>✗ |
| 6. <b>H4692 Article V Rescission</b> (Passed 34 to 4 on 11/19/2025). Rescinds all previous applications made by the Massachusetts General Court to Congress to call an Article V constitutional convention for proposing amendments to the U.S. Constitution.                                                                                                                         |                    |                | YES<br>★ |

Scorecard Votes: 17%

# Why do these votes matter?

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## 1. State Budget

H4240 the Fiscal Year 2026 \$60.9 Billion state budget increases spending by about \$3.2 billion over the previous budget, funding universal access to pre-kindergarten, increasing the Commonwealth Transportation Fund, and implementing the Affordable Homes Act.

The Massachusetts budget is already bloated with big-government spending. Funding the universal pre-kindergarten program and public-housing developments are significant steps toward socialism, increasing government control and dependency. Such spending diverts taxpayer money toward programs and services that are contrary to the rightful role of government.

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## 2. Gender-mutilation Surgery

S2543, known as the Shield Act 2.0, Increases legal protection for "reproductive" and "gender-affirming" services in Massachusetts. This bill enhances license protections for providers and assistants involved in these procedures, and allows prescriptions to be issued under a practice name rather than an individual practitioner. Additionally, it prohibits providers from disclosing medical records related to "gender-affirming" procedures in response to out-of-state civil or criminal requests, and requires hospitals to provide emergency medical services without discrimination.

This legislation creates government protections for immoral procedures that violate the right to life and limb, such as abortion and gender mutilation, while overriding parental rights, religious objections, and free-market principles in insurance and business operations.

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## 3. Access to Menstrual Products

S2640 amends various chapters of the General Laws to require that disposable menstrual products be made available at no cost to "menstruating individuals" in family shelters, public schools, jails, and correctional facilities.

Providing free personal hygiene products is not the role of government. Dependency on "free" menstrual products imposes additional costs on taxpayers. Access to these products for women who require them should be achieved through private charity and free-market solutions, rather than coercive mandates that erode individual responsibility and fiscal restraint.

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## 4. Family Resource Centers

Line item 4000-0051 in the FY26 Massachusetts budget (H4240) allocates \$500,000 for the operation and support of a network of child and family service programs throughout the commonwealth, including family resource centers. The governor vetoed the entire \$500,000, citing consistency with her budget recommendation and the availability of sufficient alternative resources through DCF Family Resource Centers (line item 4800-0200).

Mandating taxpayer funds for social services is not the role of government, and it expands the state's role in private family matters, imposes costs on taxpayers, and encourages dependency on welfare programs. Support for children and families is better achieved through private charity, community initiatives, and free-market solutions rather than government mandates that erode individual responsibility and fiscal restraint.

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## 5. Obscene Books in Libraries

S2696 establishes policies regulating the removal of library materials in public schools and libraries in Massachusetts, and mandates new procedures to ensure that challenges to obscene materials do not result in automatic removal. This bill requires schools to adopt written policies for reconsidering library materials, and creates a burdensome process for parents to challenge inappropriate materials. Additionally, this bill provides civil-liability protections for school employees and librarians.

This legislation imposes state-mandated procedures that undermine parents' authority to determine age-appropriate and morally suitable library materials. Furthermore, it promotes immoral leftist ideology in education under the guise of "free expression." Freedom of expression is not preserved through government-funded libraries that expose children to obscene or ideologically biased resources while shielding bureaucrats from accountability.

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## 6. Article V Rescission

H4692 rescinds all previous applications made by the Massachusetts General Court to Congress to call an Article V constitutional convention for proposing amendments to the U.S. Constitution. The resolution directs the clerks of the Massachusetts House of Representatives and Senate to immediately transmit copies of this resolution to the clerk of the U.S. House of Representatives and the secretary of the U.S. Senate.

Rescinding applications for a constitutional convention protects the U.S. Constitution. A so-called "Convention of the States" would not be of "limited" purpose. Article V of the U.S. Constitution was designed to correct structural deficiencies in the federal government, not the behavior of its elected officials. Officials should pursue sound solutions to restore power to the states and the people, such as clear-cut proposals in Congress repeal bad amendments or state nullification of unconstitutional federal actions.