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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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Fred J. Barrows

Massachusetts
Representative, HD-01-BRI (R)

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42

Lifetime
Freedom
Score

MA Legislative Scorecard 2023-2024

Based on the Principles of the U.S. Constitution

| ★ Constitutional | ✗ Unconstitutional | ? Did not Vote | Vote |
|---|--------------------|----------------|----------|
| 1. H4109 Invasive Salary Disclosure Mandate (Passed 148 to 8 on 10/4/2023). Requires businesses and employers to report employee salaries to the Secretary of State every year. | | | YES ✗ |
| 2. H4582 Homeless Shelters (Passed 117 to 36 on 4/25/2024). Continues funding Massachusetts' emergency family shelter system. Estimated cost per household: -\$396.00/year. | | | NO ★ |
| 3. H4750 Woke Language (Passed 156 to 0 on June 12, 2024). Replaces the term "paternity" with "parentage" and "child born out of wedlock" with "nonmarital child" to create more "inclusive" language. Additionally, it replaces the phrase "a mother and father" with "parents." | | | YES ✗ |
| 4. H4885 Gun Control (Passed 124 to 33 on 7/18/2024). Includes significant changes to firearm regulations. | | | NO ★ |
| 5. H4800 State Budget (Passed 154 to 3 on 7/19/2024). Would increase spending about \$1.97 billion, or 3.5 percent, over the fiscal 2025 spending plan, authorizing free community college, free rides on regional transit agencies, and legal online lottery sales. Estimated cost per household: -\$20,731.00/year. | | | YES ✗ |
| 6. H4889 IT Spending (Passed 154 to 2 on 7/24/2024). Aims to address the state's future information technology and security needs by authorizing a bond of \$1.256 billion. The bill provides for significant investments in improving IT infrastructure, cybersecurity, and broadband access across the state. | | | YES ✗ |

Scorecard Votes: 33%

Why do these votes matter?

1. Invasive Salary Disclosure Mandate

H4109 requires businesses and employers to report employee salaries to the Secretary of State every year.

The Massachusetts State House of Representatives passed H4109 on October 4, 2023 by a vote of 148 to 8. We have assigned pluses to the nays because it infringes on the privacy rights of individuals and businesses by mandating the disclosure of employee salaries to the government, which violates the Fourth Amendment's protection against unreasonable searches. Businesses should be able to operate without government interference.

2. Homeless Shelters

H4582 continues funding Massachusetts' emergency family shelter system. It allocates \$863 million to the state escrow fund to finance shelters through the next fiscal year and \$245 million from escrow savings to fund shelters until the current fiscal year ends.

The Massachusetts State House of Representatives passed H4582 on April 25, 2024 by a vote of 117 to 36. We have assigned pluses to the nays because it is not the government's responsibility to provide safety nets and free housing shelters for those who are struggling. Such legislation promotes socialism and fosters increased dependency on government, rather than pushing self-sufficiency and personal responsibility.

3. Woke Language

H4750 replaces the term "paternity" with "parentage" and "child born out of wedlock" with "nonmarital child" to create more "inclusive" language. Additionally, it replaces the phrase "a mother and father" with "parents."

The Massachusetts States House of Representatives passed H4750 on June 12, 2024 by a vote of 156 to 0. We have assigned pluses to the nays because this bill conforms to the woke leftist culture that focuses on virtue signaling and political correctness.

4. Gun Control

H4885 includes significant changes to firearm regulations: expanding Massachusetts' existing assault weapon ban, prohibiting large capacity magazines over 10 rounds, and broadening gun-free zones. It introduces new training requirements for concealed carry, bans ghost guns and 3-D printed firearms, and expands the ban on automatic conversion parts. The bill also increases the number of individuals who can request firearm confiscation under "red flag" laws, establishes a commission to study emerging firearm technology, creates a new crime for firing at occupied buildings, and mandates the state's gun registry share information with ATF.

The Massachusetts State House of Representatives passed H4885 on July 18, 2024, by a vote of 124 to 33. We have assigned pluses to the nays because this legislation is a significant 2nd Amendment violation, imposing extensive restrictions on firearm ownership and usage that infringe on the constitutionally protected right to bear arms. It criminalizes law-abiding gun owners, expands prohibited areas, increases "red flag" laws, and undermines due process, violating the 4th Amendment. Additionally, sharing state gun-registry information with federal authorities raises privacy concerns and risks federal overreach, increasing government control and diminishing citizens' ability to protect themselves.

5. State Budget

H4800 would increase spending by about \$1.97 billion, or 3.5 percent, over the fiscal 2025 spending plan, authorizing free community college, free rides on regional transit agencies, and legal online lottery sales.

The Massachusetts State House of Representatives passed H4800 on July 19, 2024 by a vote of 154 to 3. We have assigned pluses to the nays because the Massachusetts budget is already bloated with unconstitutional spending. Providing free community college and free transportation are significant steps toward socialism, increasing government control and dependency. Such measures divert taxpayer money toward services that should not be government-funded.

6. IT Spending

H4889 aims to address the state's future information technology and security needs by authorizing a bond of \$1.256 billion. The bill provides for significant investments in improving IT infrastructure, cybersecurity, and broadband access across the state.

The Massachusetts State House of Representatives passed H4889 on July 24, 2024 by a vote of 154 to 2. We have assigned pluses to the nays because \$1.256 billion is a large amount for an unconstitutional spending bill. Additionally, government-subsidized internet predominantly benefits specific segments of the population by allowing the government to pick winners and losers. Such subsidies are a step toward socialism and increased government interference in the free market.