

**Rita A. Mendes**

Massachusetts

Representative, HD-11-PLY (D)

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MA Legislative Scorecard 2025

Based on the Principles of 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.

★ Constitutional	✗ Unconstitutional	? Did not Vote	\$/Year	Vote
1. H4240 State Budget (Passed 139 to 6 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.			-\$2,186.68	YES ✗
2. S2543 Gender-mutilation Surgery (Passed 136 to 23 on 07/16/2025). Increases legal protection for "reproductive" and "gender-affirming" services in Massachusetts.				YES ✗
3. H4240 Family Resource Centers (Passed 133 to 22 on 10/08/2025). Allocates \$500,000 for the operation and support of a network of child and family service programs throughout the commonwealth, including family resource centers.			-\$0.18	YES ✗
4. H4240 Economic Development Grants (Passed 153 to 2 on 10/08/2025). Allocates \$1 million for regional economic-development grants to support contracts with regional economic-development organizations under sections 3J and 3K of chapter 23A of the General Laws.			-\$0.36	YES ✗
5. H4671 State Seal of Biliteracy Expansion (Passed 155 to 0 on 10/29/2025). Amends Section 1Q of chapter 69 of the General Laws to allow the state Board of Elementary and Secondary Education to establish alternative criteria for awarding the state seal of biliteracy.				YES ✗
6. H4692 Article V Rescission (Passed 155 to 3 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 ★

Scorecard Votes: 17%

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\$293,188

U.S. National Debt Per Household as of July 16, 2026

Why do these votes matter?

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.

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.

3. 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.

4. Economic Development Grants

Line item 7007-0150 in the FY26 Massachusetts budget allocates \$1 million for regional economic-development grants to support contracts with regional economic-development organizations under sections 3J and 3K of chapter 23A of the General Laws. The governor vetoed the entire \$1 million, citing a reevaluation of needs and resources after filing her budget recommendation.

Using taxpayer funds for providing government grants to regional economic-development organizations distorts the free market, unfairly benefits state-favored entities with taxpayer funds, and promotes socialism. Economic development should be fostered through tax reductions, deregulation, and private investment rather than government subsidies that increase fiscal burdens on taxpayers and reduce individual liberty.

5. State Seal of Biliteracy Expansion

H4671 amends Section 1Q of chapter 69 of the General Laws to allow the state Board of Elementary and Secondary Education to establish alternative criteria for awarding the state seal of biliteracy. This bill allows other assessments or equivalent alternatives to the existing Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System.

Government-education credentials, such as the state seal of biliteracy, increase bureaucratic control over education and set subjective standards by unelected boards. Educational freedom comes from reducing state involvement in schooling, not expanding programs that advance socialist and multicultural agendas over assimilation into American culture and English proficiency.

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.