

[MCAE] Alert #05-06: Info Only - Senate Bill Proposes \$3 million additional for ABE

STATE SENATE FILES COMMONWEALTH INVESTMENT PROPOSAL:

- On November 2, the state Senate filed its own economic stimulus bill (Commonwealth Investment Proposal - Senate Bill #2256).
- The bill proposed an additional \$3 million for the ABE line item #7035-0002 under the MA Department of Education.
- Under the Senate's proposal, the total appropriation for the ABE line item for FY2006 is \$32.3 million, which is the same as the total amount proposed in the Economic Stimulus Bill passed by the House (H4404).

SENATOR BADDOUR AMENDMENT REJECTED:

- Senator Steven Baddour filed an amendment to increase the ABE line item by another \$3 million to bring the total to \$35.3 million. However, the Senate moved quickly on its amendments, and Senator Baddour's amendment was rejected yesterday.

FYI - EXPECTED NEXT STEPS:

- After the Senate votes on its amended bill, a House/Senate conference committee will work to reconcile differences between the House and Senate versions. The bill is expected to then move to the full legislature for a vote.
- Because both the House and Senate versions of their economic stimulus bills have the identical amount for the ABE line item (\$32.3 million), it is unlikely that the Conference Committee will deal with the ABE line item since there is no money amount to be reconciled.
- We'll will keep you informed of the progress of the bills through the entire legislature and let you know if there's any action that needs to be taken.

QUESTIONS:

- For questions, please contact Roberta Soolman (litvolma@aol.com) or Steve Reuys (steve.reuys@umb.edu), MCAE Public Policy Co-Chairs.
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