**MOSES Board of Directors, November Meeting: Legislative Update**

Tuesday, November 9, 2021

*Provided by Steven Smalley, Legislative Director*

**Tax Revenue Update**

Massachusetts collected $2.445 billion for the month of October, which is $356 million or 17% more than actual collections in October of 2020 and $501 million or 8.7% more than benchmark. FY2022 year to date collections are approximately $11.197 billion, which is $1.858 billion or 19.9% more than the same period in FY2021.

October collections included increases in all major tax types including regular sales and meals tax primarily due to strength in retail sales and easing of some covid restrictions. October is typically a mid-sized month for collections bringing in about 6.5 percent of the state’s annual revenue. FY2022’s tax revenue projection is $34.40 billion.

**DCR Special Commission**

The DCR Special Commission released their draft report on October 14th done by the UMass Donahue Institute that looked extensively at the agency and provided a number of recommendations moving forward. MOSES was happy to see that the report explicitly stated that the parkways should remain within DCR along with increasing the agency’s budget and increased staffing. On October 21st, MOSES submitted both written and oral testimony on the report. The final approval will take place sometime in mid-November/ early December. The link to the draft report is:

<https://www.mass.gov/doc/dcr-special-commission-draft-report/download>

**Retirement Legislation**

No updates on **H2808/ S1669** providing 3 years of retirement credit for those required to work outside of their home during the COVID state of emergency. At this point it is a waiting game for the additional information to be received by the committee before they can make a decision.

**MOSES Legislation**

On October 18th, the Joint Committee on Public Service held a public hearing on a number MOSES priority bills on Group 2 Classification, **H2571-** An Act relative to the MWRA, H2647- An Act designating certain employees of MassDOT to Group 2, **H2700-** An Act relative to employees of the Commonwealth who are required to respond to emergencies or work in hazardous environments**, H2701-**An Act designating Aerial Foresters of the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation to be in Group 2 of the contributory retirement system**,** and **H2797-** An Act relative to employees of the Commonwealth who are required to respond to crime scenes**.** MOSES President Pat Russell testified on these bills. On October 26th, the Joint Committee on Public Safety and Homeland Security held a hearing on **S1655**- An Act relative to membership of the forensic science oversight board. Former President Joe Dorant testified on this bill.