

For Immediate Release

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#### Local Aid Amounts Set for FY09 at State House

Boston - March 13, 2008 - The House and Senate reached an agreement this week on a local aid resolution that would increase state aid to cities and towns in the FY09 budget by \$233 million, a 4.4 percent increase over last year. That brings the total state aid to towns and cities to \$5.26 billion, or over 18% of the total expected budget of about \$29 billion for FY09, which starts July 1, 2008. Local aid is comprised of Chapter 70 funding for public schools, lottery aid, and additional assistance.

For Lincoln, this means a \$97,408 increase in state aid to the town, or 6%, over Fiscal Year 2008 funding levels.

For Sudbury, this means a \$284,049 increase in state aid to the town, or 5%, over Fiscal Year 2008 funding levels. In addition, state aid for Lincoln-Sudbury High School would increase by 6% to \$147,629 over last year.

For Wayland, this means a \$321,886 increase in state aid to the town, or 8%, over Fiscal Year 2008 funding levels.

In total, the local aid resolution means over \$850,000 in additional local aid to the three towns represented by State Representative Tom Conroy of Wayland. Coupled with \$1.1 million in local aid increases last year, state aid to the towns of Lincoln, Sudbury and Wayland have increased 15% in the past two years.

Representative Conroy said that "Increasing state aid to our towns is my top priority. It's what I campaigned on, and it's what our towns and citizens need in order to hold down property taxes and provide essential services. This local aid resolution delivers significantly more state aid to Lincoln, Sudbury and Wayland than last year's state aid levels, and hopefully will help reduce some of the pressure in each town related to overrides."

Speaker Salvatore DiMasi, who shepherded the agreement between the House and Senate, stated "Cities and towns need our help and, once again, the Legislature is increasing the two most critical needs of the municipalities - school assistance and local aid. While this difficult budget year demands cuts, efficiencies, and wise spending throughout state government, I am pleased that this agreement ensures every community in the Commonwealth will see an increase in local aid based on dependable forms of revenue."

Representative Robert DeLeo, Chairman of the House Committee on Ways and Means, authored the local aid resolution and sorted out the funding for each town. "Even in these times of fiscal difficulty and uncertainty, our resolve to help cities and towns has never been stronger. We demonstrate that local aid is a top priority year after year by giving municipalities billions of state dollars to help pay for basic local services, and we continue that policy today."

The resolution was passed in the House and Senate ahead of the release of the full House of Representatives budget proposal in order to help towns and municipalities plan their budgets and spending for the next fiscal year.