

A Review of the FY 2004 Vetoes and Overrides

On June 30, Governor Mitt Romney signed the budget for fiscal year 2004 into law, but not before issuing numerous vetoes that affected a wide array of policy areas. As approved by the Legislature, the budget totaled roughly \$23 billion, nearly \$2 billion below the amount necessary to maintain current services, while the vetoes issued by the Governor, when taken together, reduced spending by an additional \$201 million. So far, the Legislature has responded by overriding one hundred and fifteen vetoes that directly affect appropriations, thus restoring some \$158 million in funding for a variety of departments and programs. The Speaker of the House has publicly indicated that further overrides may be considered once legislators return from their summer recess.

The attached tables detail the disposition, to date, of the Governor's vetoes of direct appropriations as well as the impact of such vetoes, and subsequent overrides, on spending by program area. (Vetoes changing the wording attached to line-item appropriations or addressing outside sections of the budget are not included in either table.) Among some of the more notable spending vetoes that have been overridden are:

- the elimination of \$8.6 million in funding for several legal aid programs, including the Massachusetts Legal Assistance Corporation;
- a \$23 million reduction in a category of local aid, known as "additional assistance," that is distributed to roughly 160 cities and towns across the Commonwealth and that is commonly used to help fund police, fire, and other municipal services;
- a \$8.9 million reduction in funding for smoking prevention programs (which had already been cut by \$11.3 million – or 47 percent – in the Legislature's budget), and;
- a \$10 million reduction in grants for kindergarten expansion. While the Legislature had already cut this particular line item by 17 percent, the Governor's veto would have brought the total cut to about 54 percent.

Of the vetoes that remain in place, most are concentrated within the judiciary (\$15.5 million in standing vetoes), cash assistance (\$9 million), and public health programs (\$8.3 million). In addition, two program areas particularly hard hit in the FY04 budget – housing and community development and economic development – would each lose roughly another \$2 million if the Legislature does not adopt any further overrides; funding for these two areas would respectively fall by 30.3 percent and 20.1 percent below their initial FY03 levels.

FY04 Spending, by Program Area

Program Area	FY02	FY03 (Initial)	FY04 (Post Overrides)	Change (Initial FY03 vs. FY04 Post Overrides)	% Change (Initial FY03 vs. FY04 Post Overrides)	Remaining Veto (as of 7/21/03)
Debt Service	1,434,182,413	1,505,700,968	1,609,915,318	104,214,350	6.9%	0
Pensions*	797,564,407	814,048,766	704,625,766	-109,423,000	-13.4%	0
Group Insurance	715,199,194	794,862,213	811,131,373	16,269,160	2.0%	0
School Building Debt Asst	310,574,323	361,596,898	379,358,606	17,761,708	4.9%	0
K-12 Educ (non Ch 70)	630,720,864	510,667,075	412,808,151	-97,858,924	-19.2%	0
Local Education Aid (Ch. 70)	3,213,150,094	3,258,969,179	3,108,140,588	-150,828,591	-4.6%	0
Unrestricted Local Aid	1,272,091,721	1,236,358,431	1,051,646,098	-184,712,333	-14.9%	0
Higher Education	1,005,444,771	990,369,775	815,710,605	-174,659,170	-17.6%	-108,000
Medical Assistance*	5,345,409,383	5,974,579,404	6,362,437,495	387,858,091	6.5%	-1,100,000
Cash Asst.	562,008,226	613,403,774	585,314,695	-28,089,079	-4.6%	-9,000,000
Child Care Services	393,414,830	379,940,877	365,783,476	-14,157,401	-3.7%	0
Public Health (DPH)	490,241,065	428,598,242	381,027,043	-47,571,199	-11.1%	-8,252,605
Social Services (DSS)	574,236,784	674,441,123	678,719,264	4,278,141	0.6%	0
Mental Health (DMH)	606,396,221	605,493,000	591,326,152	-14,166,848	-2.3%	0
Mental Retardation (DMR)	964,412,192	987,321,067	1,010,297,873	22,976,806	2.3%	-609,522
Elder Affairs	177,760,885	194,156,385	191,182,677	-2,973,708	-1.5%	0
Senior Pharmacy Program	80,138,049	97,609,000	96,372,765	-1,236,235	-1.3%	0
Other Health & Human Serv	541,599,044	505,948,719	477,639,379	-28,309,340	-5.6%	-745,167
Environmental Affairs	226,578,182	199,434,811	181,225,797	-18,209,014	-9.1%	-370,000
Transportation	152,073,905	98,958,139	99,337,038	378,899	0.4%	-100,000
Housing & Community Dev.	118,645,174	95,695,874	66,660,641	-29,035,233	-30.3%	-2,104,919
Judiciary	572,603,779	547,377,135	553,426,450	6,049,315	1.1%	-15,460,177
Exec. Office of Public Safety	1,270,018,978	1,222,290,336	1,248,112,353	25,822,017	2.1%	-339,946
Economic Dev	143,055,980	117,160,829	93,585,767	-23,575,062	-20.1%	-2,119,420
District Attorneys	79,653,328	75,789,086	75,789,086	0	0.0%	0
Attorney General	33,916,436	32,728,910	33,478,910	750,000	2.3%	0
Libraries	33,803,037	26,161,572	25,500,525	-661,047	-2.5%	0
Other administrative	736,763,742	703,071,942	656,653,465	-46,418,477	-6.6%	-2,346,802

*The figures in the above table are adjusted to include certain off-budget Medicaid spending for FY03 and FY04, including this year's transfer of \$55 million in federal fiscal relief funds to the uncompensated care pool. They do not, however, reflect other funding for the uncompensated care pool, which is financed by a combination of state and federal payments and assessments on hospitals and insurers. The final figures for pensions include General Fund payments to the pension fund, but exclude the \$145 million in state property that the pension fund will receive.

Overridden FY04 Line Item Vetoes

(all figures in dollars)

Line Item	Description	Veto (Reduction from FY04 Conference)	Percent (Reduction from FY04 Conference)	FY04 (Post-Override)
0321-1600	MA Legal Assistance Corporation	7,564,142	-100.0%	7,564,142
0321-2000	Mental Health Legal Advisers	501,085	-100.0%	501,085
0321-2100	Correctional Legal Services	500,000	-100.0%	500,000
0321-2205	Social Law Library	1,704,671	-100.0%	1,704,671
0322-0100	Appeals Court	300,000	-3.2%	9,236,289
0330-2200	County Court Facility Rental	2,000,000	-23.2%	8,606,082
0331-3404	Community Outreach Pilot	178,902	-100.0%	178,902
0332-3100	Orange District Court	204,950	-75.0%	273,267
0332-3800	Ware District Court	120,784	-75.0%	161,045
0332-7200	Winchendon District Court	100,504	-75.0%	134,005
0332-7500	Clinton District Court	187,565	-75.0%	250,087
0332-7700	Uxbridge District Court	230,702	-75.0%	307,603
0333-1313	Community Access Program	189,041	-100.0%	189,041
0335-0001	Boston Municipal Court	1,526,343	-47.9%	3,185,464
0335-0200	BMC - Charlestown Division	174,491	-75.0%	232,655
0339-1001	Commissioner of Probation	15,000,000	-14.2%	105,861,116
0339-1003	Community Corrections Administration	500,000	-13.0%	3,852,505
0610-0050	ABC Commission Administration	940,557	-53.2%	1,766,478
0611-5500	Additional Assistance	23,000,000	-6.1%	379,767,936
0910-0200	Inspector General - Operations	475,492	-21.6%	2,201,150
1108-5200	Group Insurance Premium Costs	30,000	*	756,569,003
1120-4005	George Fingold Library	134,171	-11.3%	1,184,048
1231-1000	Water and Sewer Rate Relief	5,000,000	-100.0%	5,000,000
1310-1000	Appellate Tax Board	75,868	-5.0%	1,517,359
1410-0012	Veterans' Outreach Centers	165,000	-16.2%	1,018,615
1410-0630	Agawam/Winchendon Veterans' Cemetary	86,018	-20.0%	429,908
1599-3857	Kerr Mill Project	550,442	-100.0%	550,442
2000-0500	Administrative Law Judges	404,226	-100.0%	404,226
2001-1001	EOEA Data Center	75,000	-60.0%	125,000
2010-0100	Recycling Coordination	2,900,000	-82.5%	3,513,437
2200-0100	Environmental Protection - Administration	675,000	-2.4%	28,140,275
2300-0101	Riverways Protection and Access	290,293	-100.0%	290,293
2310-0200	Division of Fisheries and Wildlife	80,000	-1.2%	6,782,731
2330-0100	Division of Marine Fisheries	282,600	-8.2%	3,446,500
2800-0200	Commonwealth Zoological Cooperation	750,000	-100.0%	750,000
2800-9004	Trailside Museum	219,750	-100.0%	219,750
2810-0100	Division of State Parks and Recreation	100,000	-0.5%	18,264,818
2820-0100	Division of Urban Parks and Recreation	247,000	-1.2%	21,128,262
2820-4420	Ponkapoag Golf Course	250,000	-22.7%	1,100,000
2820-4421	Leo J. Martin Golf Course	150,000	-21.4%	700,000
4000-0600	MassHealth Senior Care Plans	75,000	*	1,522,530,000
4000-0875	Cervical/Breast Cancer	2,784,551	-100.0%	2,784,551
4110-0001	MA Commission for the Blind	213,456	-25.9%	825,292

*amounts to less than -0.1%

Overridden FY04 Line Item Vetoes

(all figures in dollars)

Line Item	Description	Veto (Reduction from FY04 Conference)	Percent (Reduction from FY04 Conference)	FY04 (Post-Override)
4110-1000	Community Services for the Blind	250,000	-6.8%	3,673,070
4110-1020	Medical Assistance Eligibility for the Blind	100,000	-30.9%	323,947
4110-2000	Turning 22 Community Services	150,155	-1.9%	8,000,574
4110-2001	Turning 22 - New Clients	36,500	-100.0%	36,500
4110-4000	Ferguson Industries for the Blind	200,000	-10.6%	1,884,200
4120-2000	Vocational Rehabilitation	325,129	-4.5%	7,259,207
4120-3000	Employment Assistance	405,000	-5.2%	7,780,098
4120-4000	Independent Living	220,000	-2.9%	7,471,512
4120-4010	Turning 22 Services	131,240	-23.2%	565,000
4125-0100	Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing	128,235	-2.6%	4,929,536
4130-0002	Children's Trust Fund Administration	870,557	-100.0%	870,557
4130-1000	Healthy Families	6,677,891	-54.6%	12,238,703
4180-0100	Chelsea Soldiers' Home	250,000	-1.1%	22,692,947
4190-1101	Holyoke Soldiers' Home - Long-term Care Fees	579,000	-100.0%	579,000
4510-0600	Environmental Health Program	530,000	-19.6%	2,709,962
4510-0720	Nurse's Aide Scholarships	250,000	-100.0%	250,000
4510-0790	Regional Emergency Medical Services	1,246,896	-100.0%	1,246,896
4512-0103	AIDS Prevention and Treatment	150,000	-0.5%	32,056,975
4512-0225	Compulsive Gamblers Treatment	654,942	-100.0%	654,942
4513-1020	Early Intervention Services	697,132	-2.4%	29,188,130
4513-1023	Newborn Hearing Screening	83,060	-100.0%	83,060
4513-1026	Suicide Prevention Program	125,000	-100.0%	125,000
4513-1112	Prostate Cancer Prevention	1,000,000	-100.0%	1,000,000
4570-1500	Breast Cancer Detection and Research	35,678	-1.2%	3,029,488
4590-0250	Smoking Prevention Expansion	8,901,510	-70.5%	12,622,966
4590-0300	Smoking Prevention and Cessation	835,000	-32.9%	2,535,000
5095-0015	Community Mental Health Centers	3,000,000	-1.9%	156,753,632
5911-1000	DMR - Administration	822,924	-6.8%	12,102,349
5920-2000	DMR - Residential & Day Community Centers	903,000	-0.2%	449,520,888
5920-2025	Community-based Day and Work Programs	521,970	-0.5%	106,451,278
5920-3000	DMR - Respite and Family Services	1,300,000	-2.8%	46,800,000
5930-1000	DMR - Facilities Operations	698,454	-0.4%	163,661,641
7000-9101	Board of Library Commissioners	100,000	-11.2%	891,182
7000-9401	State Aid to Regional Public Libraries	1,048,625	-7.0%	14,980,361
7000-9402	Talking Book Library	318,777	-100.0%	318,777
7000-9506	Library Telecommunications	341,811	-100.0%	341,811
7002-0200	Division of Occupational Safety	152,800	-6.4%	2,371,669
7003-0702	Workforce Development One-Time Grants	2,224,000	-56.0%	3,974,000
7004-3036	Housing Services Program	221,925	-52.6%	421,925
7004-4314	Service Coordinators Program	490,401	-100.0%	490,401
7006-0066	Item Pricing Inspections	300,000	-100.0%	300,000
7006-0067	Weights and Measures Enforcement	358,900	-100.0%	358,900
7006-0068	Auto Repair Shops - License Fees	250,000	-55.6%	450,000

*amounts to less than -0.1%

Overridden FY04 Line Item Vetoes

(all figures in dollars)

Line Item	Description	Veto (Reduction from FY04 Conference)	Percent (Reduction from FY04 Conference)	FY04 (Post-Override)
7007-0500	MA Biotech Research Institute	100,000	-50.0%	200,000
7007-0515	Regional Economic Development Projects	350,000	-63.6%	550,000
7007-0950	Travel and Tourism Grants	2,283,321	-90.1%	2,533,321
7007-1000	Local Tourist Councils	1,419,390	-20.5%	6,929,211
7030-1002	Kindergarten Expansion Grants	10,000,000	-43.5%	23,000,000
7030-1003	Early Literacy Grants	2,100,004	-53.9%	3,892,994
7030-1005	Early Intervention Tutorial	1,910,788	-100.0%	1,910,788
7053-1927	Universal School Breakfast Pilot	2,011,060	-100.0%	2,011,060
7061-0008	Chapter 70 School Aid	451,048	*	3,108,140,588
7061-0011	Education Reform Reserve	7,000,000	-100.0%	7,000,000
7061-0012	Special Education - Residential Schools	6,500,000	-5.3%	121,600,262
7061-0029	Education Reform Audits	200,000	-7.7%	2,601,971
7061-9626	Youth Build Grants	500,000	-100.0%	500,000
7066-0009	New England Board of Higher Education	367,402	-100.0%	367,402
7066-0015	Community College Workforce Training Grants	900,000	-100.0%	900,000
7100-0200	UMass - Operations	50,000	*	327,464,464
7100-0300	Toxics Use Reduction Institute	1,139,853	-100.0%	1,139,853
7100-0500	Commonwealth College	1,715,000	-100.0%	1,715,000
7109-0100	Bridgewater State College	245,814	-0.8%	29,536,751
7112-0100	Framingham State College	160,000	-0.9%	18,314,192
7504-0101	Environmental Technology	94,395	-100.0%	94,395
8000-0225	Sex Offender Registry Fees	750,000	-100.0%	750,000
8100-0000	State Police Department	2,328,946	-1.2%	195,721,900
8200-0200	Criminal Justice Training	250,000	-10.0%	2,496,050
8900-0001	Correctional Facilities - Operations	1,537,000	-0.4%	427,805,435
9110-1630	Home Care Services	2,416,360	-2.6%	94,158,158
9110-1633	Home Care Case Management	999,827	-2.9%	34,941,978
9110-1660	Congregate Housing	1,094,580	-83.6%	1,309,680
9110-9002	Grants to Councils on Aging	590,000	-10.0%	5,900,000
TOTAL VETOES		200,944,762		
TOTAL OVERRIDES		158,288,904		
TOTAL OUTSTANDING VETOES		42,655,858		

*amounts to less than -0.1%

Outstanding FY04 Line Item Vetoes
(all figures in dollars)

Line Item	Description	FY04 (Conference)	Veto (Reduction from FY04 Conference)	Percent (Reduction from FY04 Conference)	FY04 (Post-Veto)
0320-0010	Suffolk County Clerk	986,819	10,552	-1.1%	976,267
0321-1510	Private Counsel Compensation	72,381,494	13,000,000	-18.0%	59,381,494
0321-1520	Indigent Court Costs	8,014,020	2,000,000	-25.0%	6,014,020
0332-2300	Ipswich District Court	192,474	144,356	-75.0%	48,118
0332-4300	Natick District Court	407,025	305,269	-75.0%	101,756
0411-1000	Executive Office of the Governor	5,432,067	296,649	-5.5%	5,135,418
1107-2501	Disabled Persons Protection Commission	1,612,319	39,996	-2.5%	1,572,323
1599-0050	Route 3 North Debt Service	26,777,895	203,257	-0.8%	26,574,638
2030-1000	Environmental Law Enforcement	9,902,003	200,000	-2.0%	9,702,003
2320-0100	Fisheries Public Access	320,092	20,000	-6.2%	300,092
2810-2040	State Parks Retained Revenue	2,703,218	150,000	-5.5%	2,553,218
4000-0100	Human Services Administration	2,483,812	745,167	-30.0%	1,738,645
4000-0500	MassHealth Managed Care Plans	2,361,740,111	1,100,000	*	2,360,640,111
4403-2000	TAFDC Payments	321,374,779	9,000,000	-2.8%	312,374,779
4510-0100	Department of Public Health - Administration	19,094,224	791,797	-4.1%	18,302,427
4510-0712	Health Care Quality - Retained Revenue	2,687,427	1,382,505	-51.4%	1,304,922
4512-0500	Dental Health Services	1,476,753	77,603	-5.3%	1,399,150
4590-0301	School Health Services - Retained Revenue	6,000,000	6,000,000	-100.0%	0
5911-2000	Transportation - Adult Services	13,348,889	109,522	-0.8%	13,239,367
5920-1000	DMR - Community Support Services	52,049,675	500,000	-1.0%	51,549,675
6005-0105	Highway Study Commission	100,000	100,000	-100.0%	0
7004-8878	Rental Housing Development	1,704,919	1,704,919	-100.0%	0
7004-9030	Transitional Rental Assistance	2,700,000	400,000	-14.8%	2,300,000
7006-0010	Division of Banks - Operations	11,069,851	588,434	-5.3%	10,481,417
7006-0020	Division of Insurance - Operations	9,539,795	1,103,914	-11.6%	8,435,881
7006-0040	Professional Licensure	3,427,072	427,072	-12.5%	3,000,000
7518-0100	Bunker Hill Community College	15,722,114	108,000	-0.7%	15,614,114
8000-0030	Hate Crimes Awareness Program	100,000	100,000	-100.0%	0
8000-0125	Sex Offender Registry Board	3,596,891	239,946	-6.7%	3,356,945
9500-0000	Senate Operations	17,897,012	1,276,977	-7.1%	16,620,035
9700-0000	Joint Legislative Operations	7,297,782	529,923	-7.3%	6,767,859
	TOTAL VETOES	200,944,762			
	TOTAL OVERRIDES	158,288,904			
	TOTAL OUTSTANDING VETOES	42,655,858			

*amounts to less than -0.1%