AGREEMENT REACHED ON HISTORIC OMNIBUS HOUSING BILL

Legislative leaders announced today the filing of a historic omnibus housing package. The package combines a housing bond bill, which authorizes $508 million for improvements to public and other affordable housing, and a Conference Committee report offering a long sought compromise on various housing initiatives, including Chapter 40B.

“We are proud to have achieved a compromise on this historic legislation,” said Speaker Finneran. “The Commonwealth of Massachusetts has a tremendous need to preserve, protect and produce affordable housing. This comprehensive package offers language and resources to continue forward with the production and protection of affordable housing in Massachusetts.”

In order to preserve and protect affordable housing in the Commonwealth, the $508 million bond bill provides funding for the following:

- Public housing modernization
- Funds for housing stabilization and innovation
- Infrastructure improvements and technical assistance;

House Ways and Means Chair and co-chair of the Housing Conference Committee said this bill offers a fair balance, “The Affordable Housing law – Chapter 40B – needs renovations. The current law promotes unproductive hostility between developers building affordable housing and municipalities struggling to curb unsustainable growth. This bill strikes a fair balance of power between the two yet maintains our historic commitment to providing more affordable places for our families to live.

According to Rep. Michael Cahill, Chairman of the Housing and Urban Development Committee, this compromise will impact affordable housing for years to come. “I am extremely pleased that we have reached a solution on Chapter 40B that promotes and rewards communities for planning, while demanding measurable progress in developing affordable housing. This, together with the funding of the housing bond will develop and preserve affordable housing for generations to come,” Said Chairman Cahill.
The Conference Committee report moves forward the development of affordable housing across the state with compromise language on the following:

- Definition of which units will be counted under Chapter 40B;
- Standards by which communities can deny comprehensive permits;
- Local and state tax incentives for production of affordable housing;
- A special commission on homelessness