

Massachusetts General Court

May 21, 2020 FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE (Gordon)

Rep. Gordon, House Pass Legislation to Strengthen State and Local IT Infrastructure, Includes \$175,000 for Burlington Schools

CONTACT: Cody Case, 617-722-2575

BOSTON- Representative Ken Gordon joined his colleagues in the House on Wednesday to pass legislation authorizing up to \$1.7 billion in spending for the improvement of information technology equipment and related projects in Massachusetts. The bill authorizes significant investment in numerous areas including schools, libraries, and public safety. The plan includes \$650 million to meet information technology needs across the state and \$40 million in matching grants for public schools to improve technology access as they address disruptions from the COVID-19 emergency.

In response to an amendment filed by Representative Gordon, the House included a \$175,000 authorization for Burlington Public Schools to purchase equipment and upgrade technology that will support remote learning.

"Our students and educators are facing a significant challenge right now," said Gordon. "I'm proud that the House included these funds to help Burlington ensure that every student can continue to learn at the highest possible level. I look forward to working with the Administration to bring this needed funding to Burlington schools".

The financing package also includes the following provisions:

- \$30 million in municipal grants for proper safety equipment for first responders;
- \$100 million for capital projects at Health and Human Services facilities to better handle providing amenities throughout the pandemic;
- \$41 million to support food banks serving vulnerable populations;
- \$10 million for software/hardware upgrades at community health centers

The bill now goes to the Senate for consideration.