

PAUL ADAMS

STATE REPRESENTATIVE

Adams Votes Against Last-Minute Bill Release and Excessive Supplementary Spending

For Immediate Release

Wednesday, March 30, 2011

BOSTON – State Representatives Paul Adams (R-Andover), Richard Bastien (R-Gardner), Ryan Fattman (R-Sutton), Kevin Kuros (R-Uxbridge), Steven Levy (R-Marlborough), Marc Lombardo (R-Billerica), James Lyons (R-Andover) Daniel Webster (R-Pembroke) and Harriett Stanley (D-West Newbury) voted against the latest attempt by Democrat leaders on Beacon Hill to push through another supplemental round of excessive supplementary spending. The bill received a vote by the full House and was jammed-through less than twenty-four hours after it was released from the House Ways & Means Committee.

The forty-five page bill was released to members at 1:15PM on March 29th and scheduled for debate only hours – not days, as is custom - later at 1:30PM on March 30th. This procedure stifles debate and the legislative process by scheduling business in a timeframe designed to steamroll dissent. It is impossible for lawmakers to learn what is in a forty-five page bill in less than twenty-four hours.

Lawmakers were concerned that the supplemental budget bill comes after two previous supplemental budgets were passed earlier this year totaling more than \$750 million. Representative Paul Adams voted against the bill after supporting an amendment offering some relief to cities and towns for their snow and ice deficits was tabled with a procedural move of sending the amendment to “study.”

Adams said, “This supplemental budget, along with two previous supplemental appropriations, totals over a billion dollars of additional spending above what was supposed to be a balanced budget for FY11. While this supplemental budget bill contains some necessary spending, it also includes too many non-essentials while ignoring the financial impact the difficult winter has had on cities and towns across the Commonwealth. My communities of Andover, Lawrence and Tewksbury alone spent over \$2 million more than budgeted on snow and ice removal. Our Republican caucus-led amendment was for a fiscally conservative \$25M, which offers relief while maintaining strict fiscal responsibility. I’m disappointed, but not surprised, that we weren’t given the opportunity to vote on it.”

In addition, the bill reduced the Rainy Day fund by more than 50%, to \$300 million, which has declined from over \$2.3 in 2006, for a total of five consecutive years of deficit spending in which the state sales, meals and hotel/motel tax rates were also raised 25%.

This supplemental budget bill has been submitted on the heels of the \$28 billion FY 2011 budget, more than \$750 million in mid-year supplemental spending and only weeks before the debate on the FY 2012 budget. The bill will add an additional \$125 million in net state spending to the budget passed last year.

“We must not continue to go back to the taxpayers for more, and we must decide what we need and what we can afford,” Adams said. “While I support some necessary elements of the spending bill, the whole of it is fiscally irresponsible.”

There is also language within the supplemental budget bill that provides for some of today’s appropriations to be spent in the next fiscal year. Normally, money not spent by the end of a fiscal year reverts to the state’s general fund. This money could be used in fiscal 2012 to help close an anticipated \$2B deficit.

For more information, please contact:

State Representative Paul Adams
17th Essex House District
Andover, Lawrence, Tewksbury
978-494-3262 cell
Paul.Adams@mahouse.gov