

2023 Legislative Review



State Representative
Steve Xiarhos
December 2023

Welcome



Dear Friends,

The Legislature's formal business for the first year of the 193rd General Court officially concluded on November 15, 2023. Looking back, 2023 was a very busy year in the House of Representatives and right here in the 5th Barnstable District. I am also proud to say that it was a year full of accomplishment.

I invite you to read more about some of this year's highlights in the following legislative report. As always, it is my honor and pleasure to serve you as your State Representative.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Steve Xiarhos in blue ink.

Steve Xiarhos

★ 2023 LEGISLATIVE REVIEW ★

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Beginning a New Session

Under the Constitution, the General Court is required to convene on the first Wednesday of January each year. That event took place on January 4 this year, marking the beginning of the 193rd General Court.

It was my honor to be sworn in for a second term as the State Representative for the 5th Barnstable District.

Due to legislative redistricting, this term also marks a slight change to the 5th Barnstable District, which now includes: Precincts 10, 11, and 12 of Barnstable; Precincts 1, 2, 3, 5A, and 7 of Bourne; and the entire town of Sandwich.

I also was honored to attend the swearing in of a new Governor and other constitutional officers in the following days.

I am very proud to report that I maintained a perfect voting attendance record throughout 2023, participating in all 70 roll call votes recorded in the House of Representatives between February 1, 2023, and November 15, 2023.



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Committee Assignments

Each member of the House is assigned to serve on various legislative committees that hear testimony from the public and make initial decisions on whether legislation should be passed into law. This year, I was honored to be appointed to serve as a member of the House Committee on Ways and Means. This committee plays a crucial role in shaping the state's budget and fiscal policies, including laws regarding revenue, and making recommendations on state expenditures.

I also was appointed to serve as the Ranking Minority Member on the Joint Committee on Veterans and Federal Affairs, Assistant Ranking Minority Member on the Joint Committee on Public Safety and Homeland Security, and as a member of the Joint Committee on Mental Health, Substance Use and Recovery.

It is my distinct honor and pleasure to serve the people of the 5th Barnstable District as a member of these committees.



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Filing Legislation for the People

The start of a new legislative session brought with it an opportunity for me to file bills to be heard and considered by the House.

I summarized these legislative proposals in a Legislative Agenda I published in early spring. The report contains information on the bills I filed as well as other projects I'm working on in the name of fiscal responsibility and good government, protecting taxpayers, supporting the towns in the 5th Barnstable District, and advocating for education, public safety, small business prosperity, and environmental protection.



Some of the specific proposals include:

- Several proposals to increase school safety across Massachusetts, including hiring more school resource officers and developing school safety plans, and increasing penalties for those who commit assault and battery against school officials (including referees);
- Eliminating bail for drug dealers who sell fentanyl (a/k/a Tatiana's Law);
- Increasing penalties for people who fail to give the right of way to motorcycles (a/k/a Cecilia's Law);
- A bill to take away free weights that could be used as weapons in state prisons (a/k/a Matt's Law);
- Measures to provide back-up generators in newly-constructed senior housing facilities and to help the Town of Sandwich with its wastewater disposal.

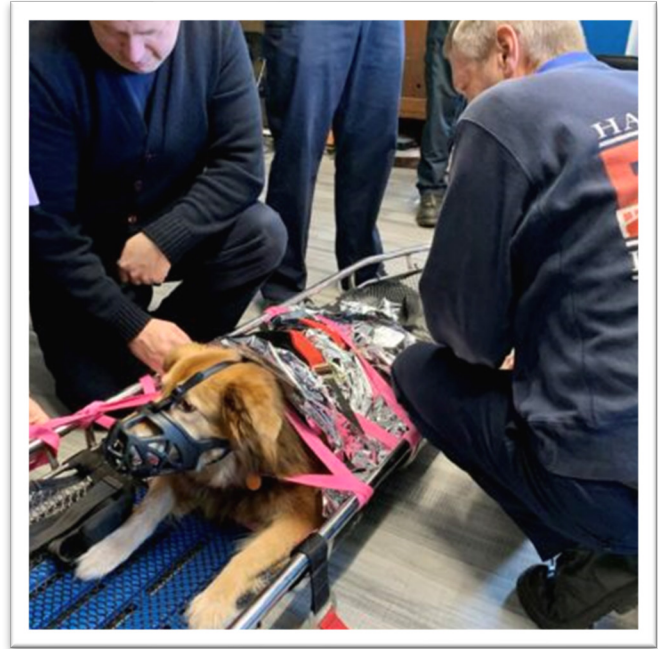
To read more about my Legislative Agenda, please visit my Website, <http://www.XiarhosForRep.com>.

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Nero's Law Training

Last session, I was deeply honored to have been the presenting House sponsor of Nero's Bill, and to have worked together with my colleagues to see Nero's Bill passed into law. This important legislation is intended to provide life-saving emergency medical services to police dogs who are injured in the line of duty.

One of the key components of the law is training for first responders to make sure they are fully prepared to render appropriate care in the event of an emergency. It is gratifying to see this training being carried out on an ongoing basis this year, as first responders across the state have been attending sessions on how to render first aid to an injured animal and how best to transport such an animal to the hospital.



I am honored to have been present at some of these sessions myself and to witness the tremendous devotion our first responders show each and every day as part of their job.

I am working hard to bring the message of Nero's Law to colleagues in other states, in hopes that this important legislation will be replicated nationwide. I have also filed a separate piece of legislation this session (known as "Dakota's Law") which is intended to establish a new fund which (subject to annual state appropriation) would be used to pay for documented expenses for the care, support, and medical needs of retired police dogs, some of whom incurred injuries in the line of duty.

As someone who was there on the day the law's namesake (Nero) was injured and his K9 handler (Yarmouth K9 Sgt. Sean Gannon) was killed, I would like to personally thank all of those who are involved in this important work as it continues to honor the memory and legacy of Sgt. Gannon, who is forever in our hearts.

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Fiscal Year 2024 State Budget

One of the top priorities for the Legislature each year is to pass a budget for the operational expenses of the Commonwealth. That process originates in the House of Representatives, and at that, it starts with the Ways and Means Committee. I was pleased to take part in this process as a new member of the Committee this year and to attend a series of hearings about our state's finances and fiscal needs. Many of these hearings were held in locations across Massachusetts, which gave me an interesting perspective how needs differ across different areas of the state.

At the conclusion of these hearings, the House considered its version of the Budget, which eventually resulted in a compromise with the Senate that was enacted into law. I am particularly pleased that the Budget funded Chapter 70 education aid at \$6.59 billion, which represents an increase of \$604 million over Fiscal Year 2023 levels, while doubling minimum per pupil aid from \$30 to \$60. It also provides for \$1.27 billion in Unrestricted General Government Aid (UGGA) to support a wide range of municipal services, which is \$39.4 million more than last fiscal year's appropriation. This funding provides Sandwich with \$7,508,068 in direct education aid and \$1,347,427 in unrestricted state aid; Bourne will receive \$5,472,583 in direct education aid and \$1,752,446 in unrestricted aid; and Barnstable will receive \$24,752,053 in direct education aid and \$2,514,581 in unrestricted aid for Fiscal Year 2024.

In addition to this funding, I am pleased to have sponsored several additional measures to support local projects in the 5th Barnstable District, including budget earmarks for:

- \$18,000 for the installation of an emergency access boat ramp for use by first responders at Sandy Neck Park beach in Barnstable;
- \$25,000 for recreational improvements to the Henry T. Wing housing complex in Sandwich; and,
- \$25,000 for the purchase of a trailer to serve as a temporary fire station for firefighters in Bourne.

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I also co-sponsored measures to provide:

- \$150,000 for shellfish propagation in Barnstable, Dukes and Nantucket counties;
- \$50,000 for the Buzzards Bay Coalition, Inc. to conduct a coastal water quality and natural resource monitoring program in Buzzards Bay and Vineyard Sound; and,
- \$300,000 to dredge 17,000 cubic yards from Cotuit Bay entrance and embayment channels.

FY2024 Budget - Local Aid Distribution 5th Barnstable District

| | <u>Chapter 70 Aid</u> | <u>Unrestricted General Gov't Aid</u> |
|------------|-----------------------|---|
| BARNSTABLE | \$24,752,053 | \$2,514,581 |
| BOURNE | \$5,472,583 | \$1,752,446 |
| SANDWICH | \$7,508,068 | \$1,347,427 |

XIARHOS
★
STATE REPRESENTATIVE

★ 2023 LEGISLATIVE REVIEW ★

Chapter 90 Road Funds

Not all money dedicated to the needs of cities and towns gets passed as part of the annual budget. Separately, I supported passage of a municipal road and bridge bill that authorized \$375 million in state bond appropriations to help cities and towns maintain their local transportation infrastructure.

As a result of this bill, Barnstable will receive \$1,981,746, Sandwich will receive \$775,413, and Bourne will receive \$599,698. This money (often referred to as “Chapter 90” funds) can be used for a variety of purposes, including road resurfacing, sidewalk repairs, traffic signalization, crosswalks, and street lighting. Other eligible construction projects include structural work on bridges, culverts, footbridges and pedestrian bridges, and retaining walls.

FY2024 Chapter 90 Funding 5th Barnstable District

| | |
|------------|-------------|
| BARNSTABLE | \$1,981,746 |
| BOURNE | \$599,698 |
| SANDWICH | \$775,413 |



In December, the state released an additional \$100 million in Chapter 90 funding, which resulted in a supplemental distribution to cities and towns:

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Steven G. Xiarhos
STATE REPRESENTATIVE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
December 22, 2023

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
THE GENERAL COURT
STATE HOUSE, BOSTON 02133-1053

5th Barnstable District
BARNSTABLE • SANDWICH •
BOURNE

CONTACT: Stuart Daniels, (617) 722-2488

Representative Xiarhos announces \$100M in transportation infrastructure grants for cities and towns

Sandwich, Bourne, and Barnstable will receive \$443,433, \$313,758, and \$1,083,569 in additional state funding assistance respectively.

BOSTON – State Representative Steven Xiarhos (R – 5th Barnstable) is pleased to announce that the state is distributing \$100 million in grant funding to assist cities and towns with their transportation infrastructure needs, which will provide the town of Sandwich with \$443,433, the town of Bourne with \$313,758, and the town of Barnstable with \$1,083,569 in funding assistance.

The latest round of funding supplements the annual Chapter 90 appropriation for municipalities, which was finalized by the House and Senate on July 27 and signed into law on August 3. That legislation provided Sandwich with \$775,413.40, Bourne with \$599,698.71, and Barnstable with \$1,981,746.73 for road and bridge repairs in Fiscal Year 2024.

Representative Xiarhos noted that the new round of transportation infrastructure funding was authorized by the Legislature through a line item inserted into the Fiscal Year 2024 state budget, which was signed into law on August 9. The funding is being distributed using a two-prong formula, with \$50 million being awarded using the traditional Chapter 90 formula, which factors in a community's local road mileage (58.33%), population (20.83%) and employment (20.83%). The remaining \$50 million will be distributed based on each community's share of road mileage.

According to Representative Xiarhos, Sandwich will receive \$249,580 based on road mileage and \$193,853 based on the Chapter 90 formula, for a total apportionment of \$443,433.

Bourne is set to receive \$163,833 for road mileage and \$149,925 from the Chapter 90 formula for a total apportionment of \$313,758.

Finally, Barnstable will receive \$588,132 based on road mileage and another \$495,437 from Chapter 90 for a total apportionment of \$1,083,569.

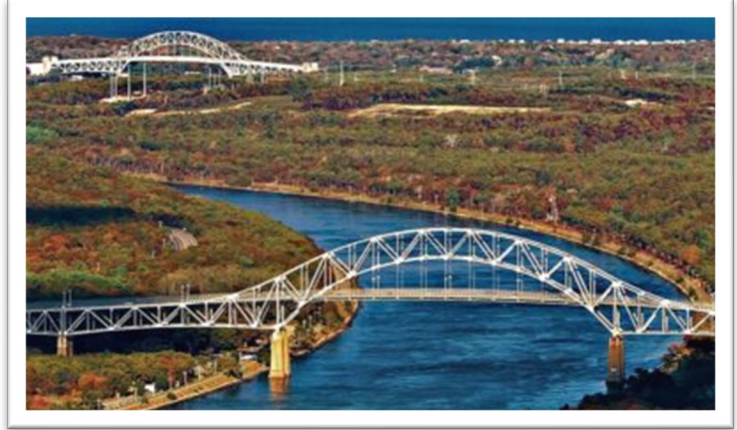
Cities and towns can use the new grant funding to pay for a variety of construction, preservation, and improvement projects. This includes installing sidewalks, bicycle lanes, crossing signals, and other transportation infrastructure work.

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Bridge reconstruction plans move forward

Ever since taking office I have been a vocal advocate for replacing the Sagamore and Bourne Cape Cod Canal bridges. These bridges are a vital link for commerce, tourism, and the day-to-day quality of life of residents of the 5th Barnstable District. I believe replacing the bridges is necessary because the bridges



are fundamentally outdated, meaning that they're not only unsuitable for current transportation needs, but also too costly to maintain and potentially unsafe for people who use them. But because of the federal government's interest in these bridges, I also think their replacement should not come at the expense of Cape Cod taxpayers and motorists. And, I want to make sure any construction projects take place in a way that respects the interests of nearby residents.

This year, officials finally finished maintenance work on the bridges that caused headaches due to lane restrictions. We also received indications that the federal government might dedicate some additional funding to this project. But, we also were told that the state wants federal funding to be used only to rebuild the Sagamore bridge at first, hoping that focusing on just one project will increase chances for the federal government to contribute money.

The story changed in mid-December, when the federal government awarded Massachusetts \$372 million to go towards replacement of the Cape Cod Canal bridges. This is excellent news! While we still have a long way to go on this project, and while this funding is not all we need, this is a terrific step forward. I thank everyone who was involved in helping to make this happen, specifically Governor Healey and her administration, the members of our Congressional, and Cape Cod delegation.

I stand by my commitment that both bridges should be rebuilt, with substantial funding from the federal government, and I will continue pushing state and federal officials for such a solution.

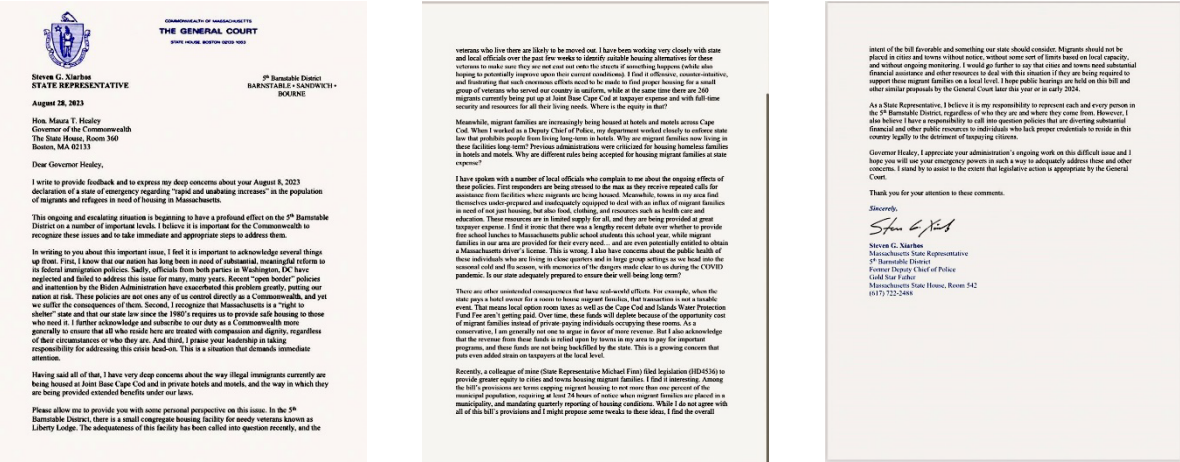
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Opposing illegal immigration and improper migrant housing policies

As an American I am a firm believer in the need to secure our border from illegal immigration. A country with porous borders faces enormous threats to national security, public health, and public welfare. That's not because there's something wrong with immigration; the United States is a nation of immigrants and we're better for it. It's because there is a glaring problem whenever there is a widespread disregard for rule of law. And, that problem is more than just conceptual, it's real and it's being felt right here on Cape Cod.

I oppose the state's relocation and housing of thousands of migrants here on Cape Cod. Our state has little to no idea where many of these persons came from and what their intent is here, and that is a risk. I also oppose the millions upon millions of taxpayer dollars our state is spending to shelter these migrants in hotels and motels, and to provide them with food, clothing, health care, shelter, and employment.

These benefits are largely being provided under our state's "Right to Shelter Law." I believe this law never was intended to provide free room and board for persons who entered our nation inappropriately. I have therefore joined with colleagues to propose that the Right to Shelter Law be amended to clarify that it is intended to apply only to lawful United States citizens going forward. I also have opposed supplemental spending bills aimed at providing additional taxpayer dollars to support migrants here in Massachusetts.



Read my full letter to Governor Healey at www.XiarhosForRep.com.

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Fighting to support our needy veterans

One of the reasons I am opposed to our state's migrant housing policies is that we are not doing enough to take care of needy United States citizens right here in the 5th Barnstable District. I am personally aware of people who live in tents at local campgrounds during the summer because they have nowhere else to live. And, I have been personally involved in trying to find alternative housing options for needy veterans at Liberty Lodge in Sandwich.

Liberty Lodge is a housing facility for needy veterans that ran into some issues this year. Veterans living there needed immediate help trying to identify a new place to live – but there were few, if any, options available to them.

As a military family and Gold Star Father, and as a member of our Legislature's Joint Committee on Veterans and Federal Affairs, I take the wellbeing of veterans within the 5th Barnstable District very seriously. I therefore made it a mission to make sure these veterans get all the services they need in a timely and productive fashion.

Per my request and with my assistance, officials from the United States Veterans Affairs, the Massachusetts Executive Office of Veterans Services, Cape Cod Veterans Services, the Cape & Islands Veterans Outreach Center, and the Housing Assistance Corporation came together to identify alternative housing for these veterans. We were able to stabilize the situation such that no veterans would be displaced from their housing, and so that all were able to find new housing options elsewhere that were suitable to them.



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Making affordable housing a priority

Affordable housing is a top issue for many residents of Cape Cod. With that in mind, I was honored to be named to serve as a member of the board of directors for Habitat for Humanity of Cape Cod.

This wonderful organization is building new homes across our area for people in need. What is so gratifying about this charity is that families get to help build their own homes alongside volunteers, and pay an affordable mortgage to live there. Homes are deed restricted to remain affordable in perpetuity. With the support of Habitat and community contributors, Habitat homeowners achieve the strength, stability and self-reliance they need to build a better life for themselves and their families.



Stepping up to help Bourne residents

This summer there was a water quality problem in Bourne that caused certain residences to have a boil water order. I joined other volunteers in stepping into action to help notify the community of the problem and to distribute drinking water to those who needed it. Fortunately officials in the Bourne Water District were able to remedy the problem fairly quickly and service was restored to residents.



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Title V Regulations

Throughout my time as State Representative I have been very concerned about the issue of wastewater management here on Cape Cod. This is a pressing issue for every town on the Cape, and for all of the residents who live and own property here. We need to make sure that our wastewater management systems function appropriately so as to preserve the environmental integrity of our land and national seashore. We also need to develop wastewater solutions that are practical and affordable at both the homeowner and the municipal/regional level. I continue to work hard to achieve these solutions on behalf of the towns I represent.

Earlier this year MassDEP proposed sweeping new regulations to deal with increased nitrogen levels in our water, some of which is attributable to nitrogen produced by wastewater. While I think this is an important environmental priority, I joined many residents in their concern that many property owners would need to install a new high-end septic system on their property – something which be very, very expensive to install and to maintain over time. With this in mind, I have been consistently pushing MassDEP for a more measured and workable approach to be achieved for the benefit of property owners and the environmental sanctity of the Cape alike. I also have tried to provide opportunities for my constituents to express their viewpoints about this issue to MassDEP via town meetings and seminars to help inform future state policy on the issue. As of now, towns in this area have until mid-2025 to file an intent to request a watershed permit, or some homeowners will be required to upgrade/replace their home’s wastewater treatment system by 2030.



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Fighting for stiffer penalties against violent criminals

I was very frustrated that a mistrial was declared this summer in the case against the accused killer of Weymouth Police Sgt. Michael Chesna and resident Vera Adams. I find it inconceivable that their accused killer – who does not dispute his actions – could some day walk free by reason of an insanity defense.

I wrote a letter to our Judiciary Committee demanding that action be taken on implementing a new so-called “guilty, but insane” verdict in Massachusetts. Under this rule, future juries potentially could find certain mentally-impaired defendants guilty, after which they would be committed to institutional treatment instead of prison. Bills of this nature have been pending for a long time and I believe the time to act is now. While I wholeheartedly acknowledge the reality and importance of mental health issues in our society,

I find it unacceptable that a person could kill someone and escape consequences for their actions entirely. The families of these victims deserve justice for crimes committed against their loved ones.



COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
THE GENERAL COURT
JULY TERM, 2022

NORM G. XIARHOS
STATE REPRESENTATIVE

July 11, 2023

The Honorable Senator James D. Echols, Chair
Joint Committee on the Judiciary
20 Beacon Street, Room 3112
Boston, MA 02133

2023 Rank 32nd
SENATE RANK IN CATEGORY:
32/83

The Honorable Representative Michael D. Day, Chair
Joint Committee on the Judiciary
20 Beacon Street, Room 3112
Boston, MA 02133

Dear Chair Echols and Day:

Recently, a Dublin Superior Court judge declared a mistrial in the trial of Ernest Lopez. Mr. Lopez stands accused of a serious crime, for which he must serve a long term in prison.

It is alleged that on the morning of July 11, 2022, Mr. Lopez made his way to work and was in a vehicle when he was involved in a fatal collision with a motorist. The victim, a young girl, was killed. Mr. Lopez was charged with the crime of manslaughter.

Mr. Lopez's attorney has argued that Mr. Lopez was suffering from a mental health condition at the time of the collision and that he was not in control of his actions. The judge declared a mistrial because the jury was unable to reach a verdict.

I encourage these facts for their legal proceedings.

For as well as a former Deputy Police Chief from Weymouth, I am well aware of the impact of homicide on the families of the victims. Our Department and I have been in contact with the family of the victim, Vera Adams, and I have been in contact with the family of the victim, Sgt. Michael Chesna. I have also been in contact with the family of the victim, Sgt. Michael Chesna. I have also been in contact with the family of the victim, Sgt. Michael Chesna.

I find it unacceptable that a person could kill someone and escape consequences for their actions entirely. The families of these victims deserve justice for crimes committed against their loved ones.

I encourage these facts for their legal proceedings.

While that is not to say that the mistrial was not a tragedy, it is not the end of the road. The families of these victims deserve justice for crimes committed against their loved ones. I find it unacceptable that a person could kill someone and escape consequences for their actions entirely.

The case was certainly a tragedy. The case is full of tragedy. It is a tragedy that a person who has committed a serious crime should be allowed to walk away from prison. It is a tragedy that a person who has committed a serious crime should be allowed to walk away from prison.

I have long argued for the importance of mental health issues in our society. I have long argued for the importance of mental health issues in our society. I have long argued for the importance of mental health issues in our society.

Not all cases have been as simple as the case of Ernest Lopez. In some cases, the defendant is a person who is suffering from a mental health condition. In some cases, the defendant is a person who is suffering from a mental health condition.

In my opinion, our Commonwealth should consider a change in the law to allow for a “guilty, but insane” verdict. In my opinion, our Commonwealth should consider a change in the law to allow for a “guilty, but insane” verdict.

On the matter of mental health, I have long argued for the importance of mental health issues in our society. On the matter of mental health, I have long argued for the importance of mental health issues in our society.

My name is Norm G. Xiarhos. I am a State Representative in the Massachusetts General Court. My name is Norm G. Xiarhos. I am a State Representative in the Massachusetts General Court.

future inquiries. And I believe it is our duty as responsible legislators to do so. Please let me know if you have any questions or need any further information. I am available to meet with you at any time.

Sincerely,
Norm G. Xiarhos
State Representative
20 Beacon Street, Room 3112
Boston, MA 02133
(617) 725-2100

Read my full letter regarding this matter at www.XiarhosForRep.com.

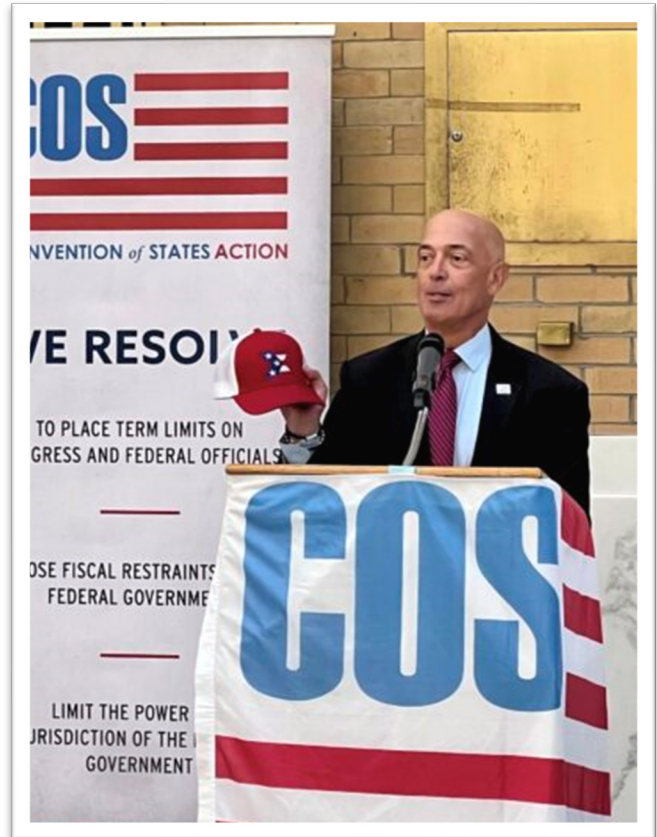
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Calling for a “Convention of States”

In September I was pleased to deliver remarks at the Statehouse in support of Resolutions calling for a Convention of the States under Article V of the United States Constitution.

Article V allows two-thirds of state legislatures to call for a so-called “Convention of States” to consider and propose amendments to the Constitution, which then can be ratified and take effect as if they had been proposed by Congress.

I am proud to be the sponsor of the bill that would call for Massachusetts to join the growing chorus of states calling for a Convention of States this year.



Some of the possible amendments that could be considered would be giving the President line item veto authority and requiring a federal balanced budget amendment (like we have in Massachusetts), term limits for federal officials, and other measures.

I remain hopeful the Massachusetts Legislature will consider this resolution for passage later this session.

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Community Choice Award “Cape Cod Person of the Year”



I was beyond excited and honored to be chosen by the Cape Cod Times Community Choice Awards as their 2023 Person of the Year for Cape Cod during a special event at the Seacrest Resort in September. What an honor! Thank you to all those who chose me for this distinction, I am deeply humbled and honored. And, congrats to all the other award winners—many are wonderful friends and hardworking small business owners from all over the 5th Barnstable District and beyond!

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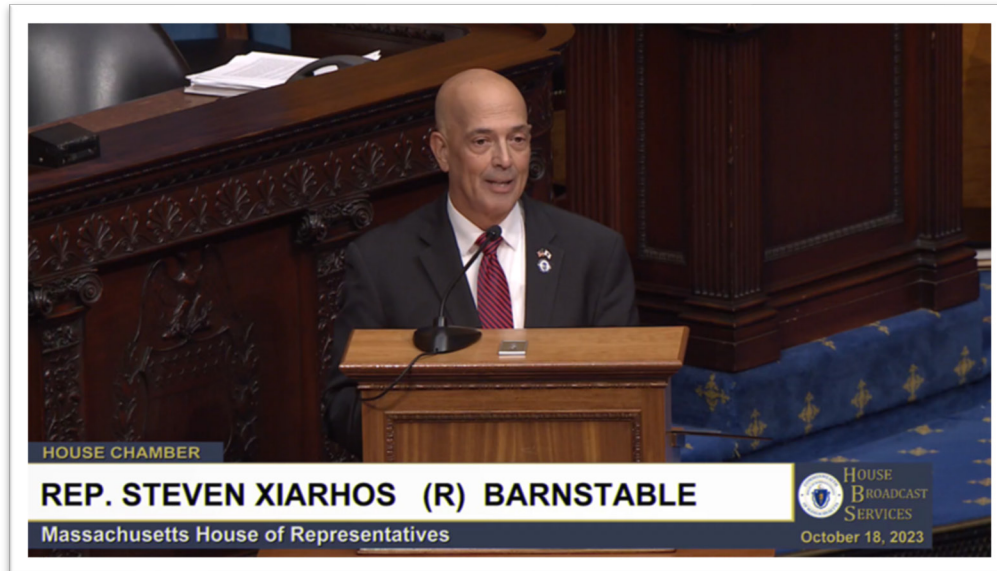
Supporting Omnibus Tax Relief



In September I joined with colleagues to approve a comprehensive tax package that will provide significant financial relief to Massachusetts residents and businesses. Under a phased-in approach, the series of tax reforms in this bill is expected to produce \$561 million in savings for taxpayers this fiscal year and an estimated \$1.02 billion in savings once the changes are fully implemented in 2026. These savings include increases in the child and dependent tax credit, the rental deduction cap, and the Earned Income Tax Credit. The Senior Circuit Breaker tax credit is also doubled, while the estate tax threshold is increased from \$1 million to \$2 million. In addition, the bill triples the maximum allowable Title V tax credit for homeowners repairing or replacing their septic tanks (from \$6,000 to \$18,000) and also increases the amount that can be claimed to \$4,000 per year – critical relief for homeowners here in the 5th Barnstable District and throughout Cape Cod.

★ 2023 LEGISLATIVE REVIEW ★

Opposing sweeping changes to our state's firearms licensing laws



In October the House considered a bill to make sweeping changes to our state's firearms laws. After listening attentively to many constituent opinions, consulting experts on both sides, and attending more than seven hours of public hearing testimony for and against, I voted against this bill and spoke about it on the House floor (my first ever legislative address).

As you well know, I am a former Deputy Police Chief with 40 years of law enforcement experience. I am adamantly opposed to violent crime, and I strongly support making Massachusetts a safer place to live. However, after much research I do not believe this bill, as written, will do anything meaningful to make Massachusetts safer, but it will significantly take away the constitutionally-protected rights of responsible gun owners. I take special note that the bill was opposed – unanimously – by all 351 municipal police chiefs in this state, as well as all 100 university campus police chiefs. These officials are not only the ones responsible for gun licensing, but also on the front lines of enforcement. I think it's profound that they all oppose this bill.

We need tougher enforcement in the courts, not more laws. We need to support our police and their mission. I stand with them, and the many, many constituents who contacted my office against this bill.

★ 2023 LEGISLATIVE REVIEW ★

Supporting enhanced penalties under the state “Move Over Law”



As a former Deputy Chief of Police I am a fervent supporter of our first responder community, especially when it comes to their safety on the job.

In October, I was joined by the State Police Association of Massachusetts and other law enforcement officials to rally in support of a bill I am sponsoring to increase the penalty for those who fail to slow down and move over when there is a stopped emergency vehicle in the roadway. Motorists who don't comply with the state's existing Move Over Law, which took effect in 2009, currently face a \$100 fine. That's not enough to deter bad drivers.

The bill I am sponsoring (together with my colleague State Representative Jessica Giannino of Revere) would increase the fine to \$250 for the first offense and a criminal misdemeanor for an injury to a first responder.

I remain very hopeful this bill will be passed into law this session.

★ 2023 LEGISLATIVE REVIEW ★

Protecting the environmental sanctity of Cape Cod



I support clean energy alternatives for Massachusetts residents as a way of safeguarding the environmental sanctity of our Commonwealth (and, in particular, our beautiful Cape Cod). However, sometimes there are decisions that are made that aren't in the best interests of Cape residents.

In November, I attended public meetings about the Mid-Cape Reliability Project, which would install high-power electric cables from offshore wind turbines underneath Dowses Beach and Craigville Beach in Barnstable and through residential neighborhoods. I am very concerned about the environmental impacts, spanning air emissions, noise, traffic, waste, electric and magnetic fields, wetlands, water quality degradation, visual intrusions, and potential risks to health and safety, all of which have become focal points of contention within our community.

I have asked our state Energy Facilities Siting Board to carefully weigh these concerns as they evaluate whether to approve this project, and to withhold their approval until all of these concerns are adequately addressed and a comprehensive reassessment is conducted.

★ 2023 LEGISLATIVE REVIEW ★

Some Other Memorable Moments from 2023



★ 2023 LEGISLATIVE REVIEW ★



JOHN F. KENNEDY SPOKE FROM THIS ROSTRUM TO THE MASSACHUSETTS GENERAL COURT ON JANUARY 9, 1961

I carry with me from this state to that high and lonely office to which I now succeed more than fond memories of firm friendships. The enduring qualities of Massachusetts... will not be and could not be forgotten in this nation's executive mansion. these are the historic qualities of the Bay Colony and the Bay State—the qualities which this state has consistently sent to this chamber on Beacon Hill here in Boston and to Capitol Hill back in Washington. And these are the qualities which, with God's help, this son of Massachusetts hopes will characterize our government's conduct in the four stormy years that lie ahead.

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