

STATE HOUSE NEWS SERVICE

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HOUSE TARGETS LIFE SCIENCES, COMMUNITY PRESERVATION FOR POTENTIAL SURPLUS \$\$\$

House leaders on Wednesday morning recommended that \$20 million of any state budget surplus left over at the end of fiscal year 2016 be divided between the community preservation efforts and investments in life sciences. Included in a bundled amendment to the House budget proposal dealing with labor and economic development, House Ways and Means Chairman Brian Dempsey recommended that half of any surplus, but not more than \$10 million, will be put into a trust fund to support communities that participate in the Community Preservation Act. Cities and towns that have adopted the CPA are allowed to raised additional local tax revenue to support conservation efforts, and by doing so qualify for state matching funds. CPA supporters say state matches have eroded over the years, especially as more communities have embraced the local option law. Rep. Peter Kocot, of Northampton, had filed an amendment that garnered 40 co-sponsors in the House that would have set aside \$25 million of any surplus for the CPA. Dempsey and House leaders are also recommending that the remaining half of any surplus, but also not more than \$10 million, be set aside for the Massachusetts Life Sciences Investment Fund. Overall, the labor and economic development amendment would add \$16.1 million to the bottom line of the House budget. Amendment details: [Labor and Economic Development Amendment](#) - Matt Murphy/SHNS