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House Committee on Ways and Means

To: Representative Mary Hooper, Chair, House Committee on Appropriations
From: Representative Janet Ancel, Chair, House Committee on Ways and Means
Date: February 24, 2021
Subject: Provisions in the Governor's Recommended FY 2022 State Budget

Our committee has reviewed the sections of the budget that affect our area of jurisdiction and offers the following comments.

E.111. CAPTAP. We support this appropriation.

E.139. Litigation Assistance. We support this appropriation.

E.236 et seq. Lottery. Although these sections affect revenue, we didn't review them because it's our understanding that the General Committee has taken the lead on this.

E.504 Flexible pathways and dual enrollment. We support this appropriation, although we continue to express concern about the impact of these programs on the Education Fund, which is part of a wider concern about having costs not related to preK-12 education borne by property taxpayers.

E.XXX. Community High School. We do not support having this cost borne by the Education Fund. It's an important program but should not be paid for by property taxpayers.

E.514. Teachers Retirement. Our committee heard testimony from JFO and the State Treasurer on the broader issue of retirement, with particular emphasis on teachers' retirement since it directly affects the Education Fund and property taxpayers.

We continue to have concerns and questions about the very significant increase (almost 6 fold) in the normal cost of teachers retirement. Although the committee did not reach a consensus, we also discussed whether those costs should be borne at the district level.

Our recommendation on this section is to support the appropriation while recognizing that there are broader issues that need further review and consideration.

XXXX. Fish and wildlife bill backs.