

# MASSACHUSETTS FINANCES CONTINUE TO CRUMBLE

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## THE FINANCIAL STATE OF MASSACHUSETTS

Repeated decisions by Massachusetts government officials have left the commonwealth with a staggering debt burden of \$82.9 billion, according to Truth in Accounting's (TIA) analysis of the most recent financial filings. That burden equates to \$32,900 for every Massachusetts taxpayer.

These statistics are troubling, but what's more troubling is that commonwealth officials continue to obscure large amounts of retirement debt on their balance sheets, despite new rules to increase financial transparency. This skewed financial data gives residents a false impression of their commonwealth's overall financial health.

### Here's the truth:

**\$82.9  
billion**

money needed to  
pay bills

**-\$32,900**

taxpayer  
burden™

**F**

Massachusetts'  
financial grade

Data included in this report is derived from the commonwealth of Massachusetts' 2016 audited Comprehensive Annual Financial Report and retirement plans' actuarial reports.

# MASSACHUSETTS FINANCIAL BREAKDOWN

## FAST FACTS

- + Massachusetts has \$20.9 billion available in assets to pay \$103.7 billion worth of bills.
- + The outcome: A \$82.9 billion shortfall and a \$32,900 taxpayer burden™.
- + Despite reporting most of its pension debt, the commonwealth continues to hide most of its retiree health care debt. The total hidden debt amounts to \$15.3 billion.

### THE COMMONWEALTH'S BILLS EXCEED ITS ASSETS

Assets	\$74,659,810,000
<i>Minus:</i> Capital assets	-\$46,956,571,000
Restricted assets	-\$6,820,528,000
Assets available to pay bills	\$20,882,711,000
<i>Minus:</i> Bills	-\$103,737,107,000
Money needed to pay bills	-\$82,854,396,000
<b>Each taxpayer's share of this debt</b>	<b>-\$32,900</b>

### BILLS THE COMMONWEALTH HAS ACCUMULATED

Bonds	\$48,810,397,000
Other liabilities	\$13,082,718,000
<i>Minus:</i> Debt related to capital assets	-\$16,317,029,000
Unfunded pension benefits	\$39,560,330,000
Unfunded retiree health care	\$18,600,691,000
<b>Bills</b>	<b>\$103,737,107,000</b>

## GRADE: F

Bottom line: Massachusetts would need more than \$20,000 from each of its taxpayers to pay all of its bills, so it has received an "F" for its finances from Truth in Accounting.

Truth in Accounting is committed to educating and empowering citizens with understandable, reliable, and transparent government financial information. To be knowledgeable participants in their government and its budget process, citizens need truthful and transparent financial information.