



WILLIAM MCNAMARA  
COMPTROLLER

# Commonwealth of Massachusetts

## OFFICE OF THE COMPTROLLER

ONE ASHBURTON PLACE, 9TH FLOOR  
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02108  
(617) 727-5000  
MACOMPTROLLER.ORG



### MEMORANDUM

**To:** Department Heads, Chief Fiscal Officers, MMARS Liaisons, and Payroll Directors

**From:** William McNamara, Comptroller of the Commonwealth

**Date:** July 11, 2025

**Subject:** Official Opening of Fiscal Year 2026

Comptroller Memo FY2026-03

#### Executive Summary

The Fiscal Year 2026 General Appropriation Act, Chapter 9 of the Acts of 2025, has been signed. This memo announces that July 4, 2025, is the official “opening date” of the accounting system. A deadline of July 18, 2025, has been established for the alignment of encumbrances and expenditures to the enacted budget.

The Fiscal Year 2026 General Appropriation Act was signed on Friday, July 4, 2025. The Executive Office for Administration and Finance expects to record in MMARS all accounts in all funds, and expenditure ceilings will be adjusted to reflect 3/12 of the amount available for spending in all subsidiaries for departments subject to the periodic allotment. This establishes legal authorization for Fiscal Year 2026 obligations and expenditures as of July 4, 2025. Therefore, the official “opening date” of the accounting system for Fiscal Year 2026 is July 4, 2025.

Any accounting transactions that were processed under the interim budget must be recorded in conformance with the General Appropriation Act. Departments should complete any payroll and non-payroll adjustments to conform to the Fiscal Year 2026 chart of accounts by July 18, 2025. Departments may not request or accept performance, or otherwise incur obligations, in excess of department appropriations and allotments, pursuant to M.G.L. c. 29, §§ 26 and 27. Any reductions to expected spending levels for Fiscal Year 2026 budgetary accounts may require adjustments to previously executed contracts. CTR’s policy on [Amendments, Suspensions or Terminations](#) provides departments with the procedures for suspending, amending, or terminating contract actions as necessary to stay within their authorized spending limits.

Departments are responsible for properly recording activity to the appropriate fiscal year, and other fiscal actions in accordance with state finance law.

If you have specific accounts for which you have questions or require additional guidance, please contact Jessica Cogswell, Statewide Payments Officer, at (617) 356-6689 or Scott Claussen, Statewide Payroll Officer, at (617) 356-6263.

All of us at CTR look forward to partnering with you in the new fiscal year.

Please distribute this memo to all pertinent personnel. Thank you.

cc: General Counsels  
Internal Distribution