



## **An Act Relative to Forfeiture Reporting**

S.857 || Sen. Jason Lewis & Rep. Jay Kaufman

Seized assets from law enforcement investigations – including cash, cars, personal and real property – can be a major source of revenue for local and state police departments and District Attorneys’ offices across the Commonwealth. Under current law, money derived from seized assets is maintained in “Special Law Enforcement Trust Funds” within the office of the State Treasurer and spent at the discretion of the head of the law enforcement agency. However, Massachusetts has no requirements or process regarding public accounting for those funds. In order to join the national debate on asset forfeiture, we need to take the basic first step of tracking how much money seized assets generate for agency budgets every year and how that money is spent. This legislation would require basic accounting regarding assets seized under state drug laws.

- Builds basic accounting requirements onto the existing statutory framework for managing seized assets.
- Directs the State Treasurer to file a public annual report with the Secretary of Administration and Finance and the House and Senate Committees on Ways & Means regarding the income and expenditures of each Trust Fund.
- Applies to all assets seized under Massachusetts law regarding illicit drugs – Chapter 94C – since this area accounts for the vast majority of forfeited assets.
- Does not alter the process of seizing assets or of expending money from seized assets.
- Allows for an informed discussion on asset forfeiture in the future.

*For questions, please contact Whitney Taylor at 617-482-3170 or [wtaylor@aclum.org](mailto:wtaylor@aclum.org)*