

Massachusetts

Federal Policies Have Cost Massachusetts \$3.2 Billion over the Past Four Years

Federal Policies Affect Massachusetts Revenue and Spending Levels, 2002-2005

*Cost to
Massachusetts*

- *Federal Tax Changes:* Recently enacted federal tax cuts reduce state revenue directly. \$55 million
- *Remote Sales:* States cannot collect sales taxes on goods & services purchased over the Internet due to federal law and court decisions. \$920 million
- *Internet Access:* States are generally prohibited from applying tax to Internet access charges. \$100 million
- *Unfunded Mandates:* Federal government imposes responsibilities on states but provides insufficient funding. \$1.7 billion
- *Medicare/Medicaid Dual Eligibles:* Increased use of prescription drugs shifts costs of health care for low-income elderly from federal Medicare program to state Medicaid programs. \$998 million
- *Federal Fiscal Relief:* Congress approved temporary grants in 2003. (\$549 million)

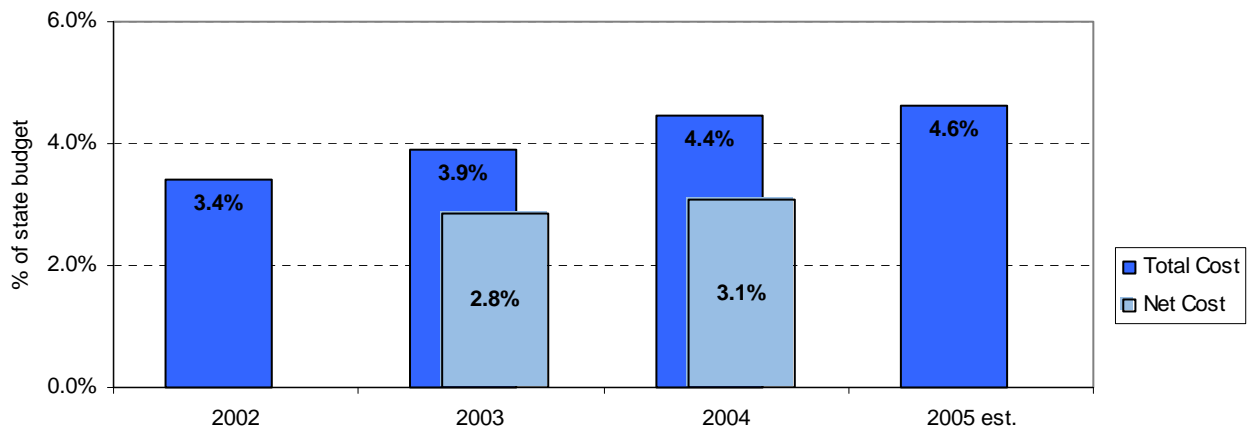
TOTAL COST (net of fiscal relief), 2002-2005: **\$3.2 billion**

Federal Policies Have Worsened Massachusetts's Fiscal Problems

*Ranking among 50
states plus D.C.*

- Total cost as percent of General Fund budget (2002-2005): **4.1%** **49th**
- Net cost as percent of General Fund budget, including offsetting federal fiscal relief (2002-2005): **3.5%** **49th**

Net Cost of Federal Policy to Massachusetts as a Percentage of State General Fund Budget



Source: Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, *Passing Down the Deficit: Federal Policies Contribute to the Severity of the State Fiscal Crisis*, May 12, 2004.