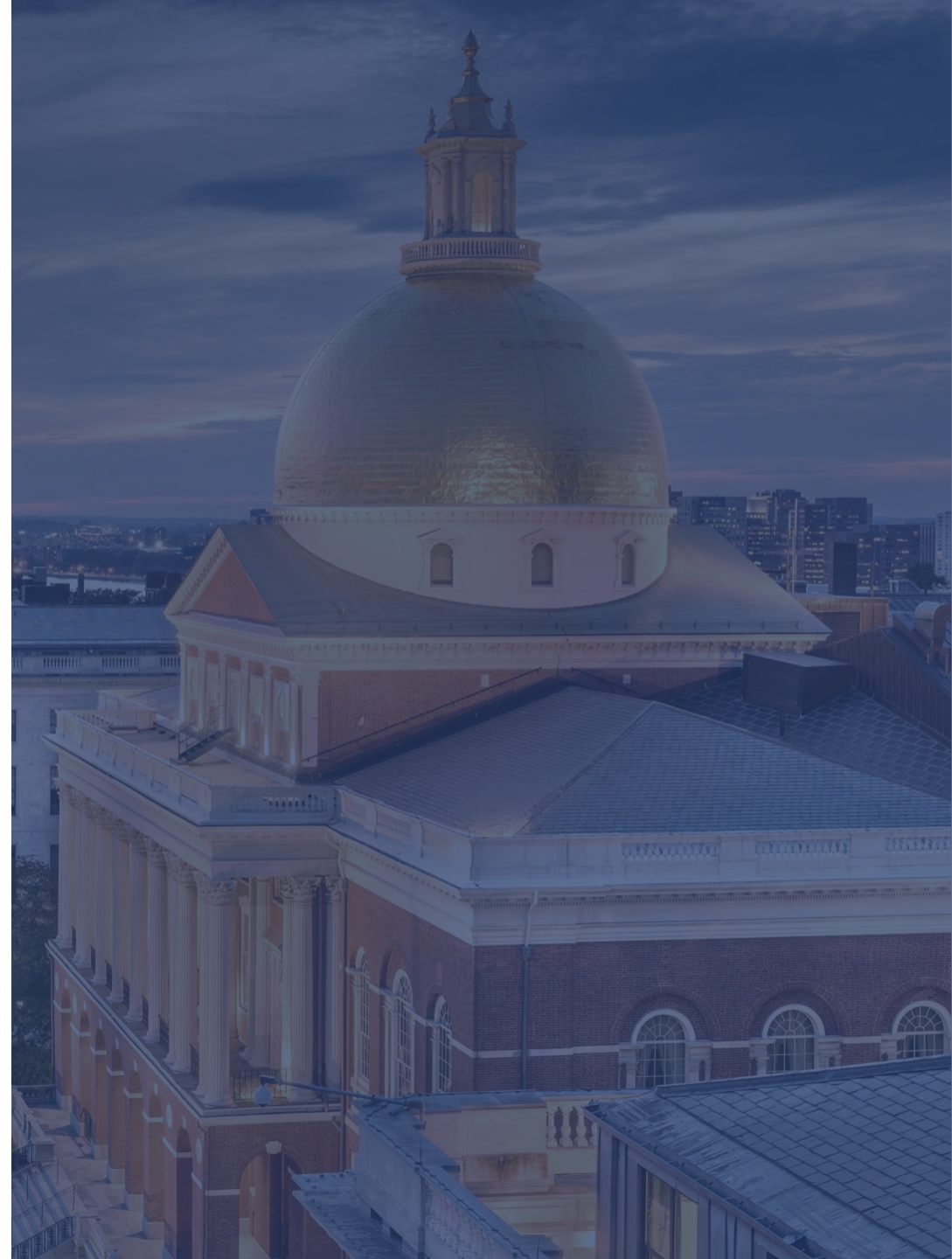




Massachusetts
Taxpayers Foundation

FY 2026 Senate Amendments *By the Numbers*

May 14, 2025



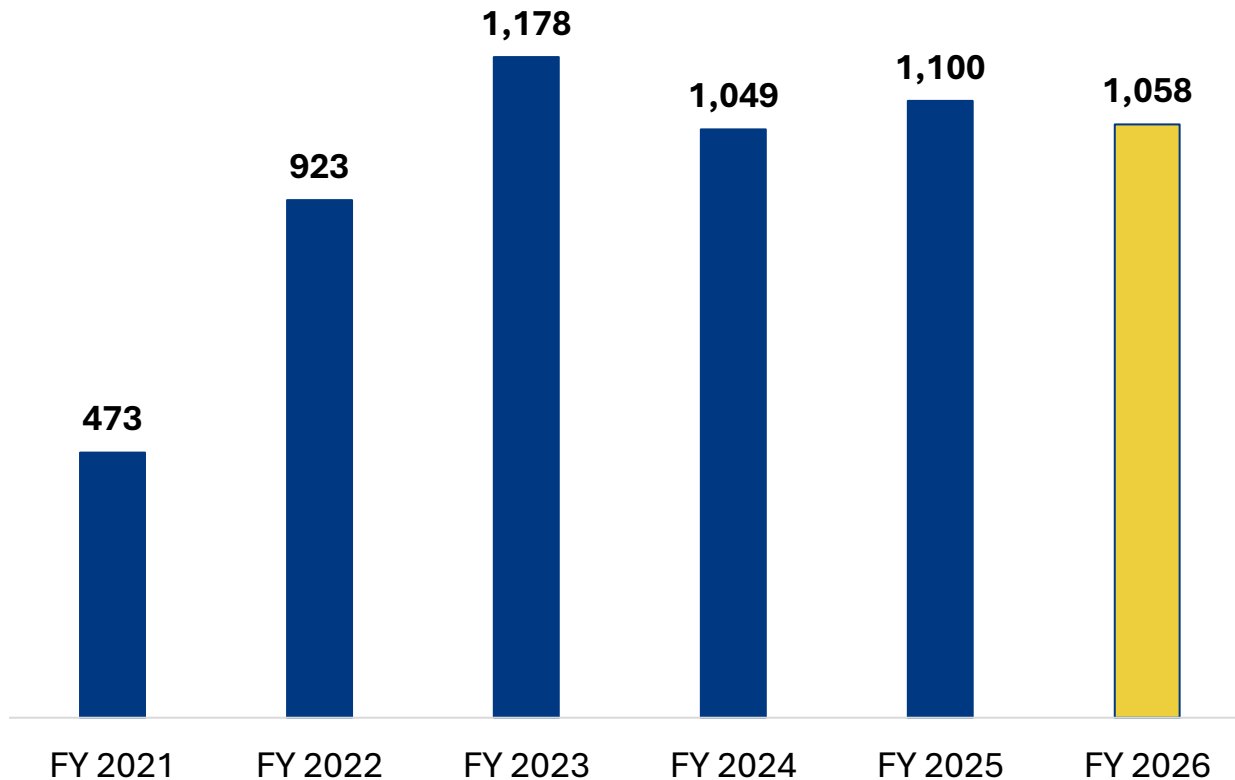
FY 2026 Senate Amendments

5 Things to Know:

1. Senate members filed **1,058 amendments**, 42 fewer than in FY 2025 and 9 more than in FY 2024.
2. The fiscal impact of all amendments is at least **\$2.09 billion**.*
*This estimate may be conservative, the fiscal impact for all amendments is not yet known.
3. About **59% (624)** of the amendments are earmarks.
4. Approximately **41% (434)** of the amendments are outside policy sections, support programmatic funding increases, or introduce new line-item language.
5. Between FY 2023 – FY 2025, an average of **\$88 million** in additional spending was added during Senate Debate.

Amendment Historical Context

Amendments Filed by Fiscal Year



- Senators filed **1,058** amendments to the FY 2026 SWM budget.
 - 42 fewer than in FY 2025.
 - 9 more than in FY 2024.
- Between FY 2015 – FY 2025, Senate members filed an average of **1,014** amendments.
- FY 2021 reflects the impacts of the pandemic. The Senate did not debate the budget until November 2021.

Amendment by Type

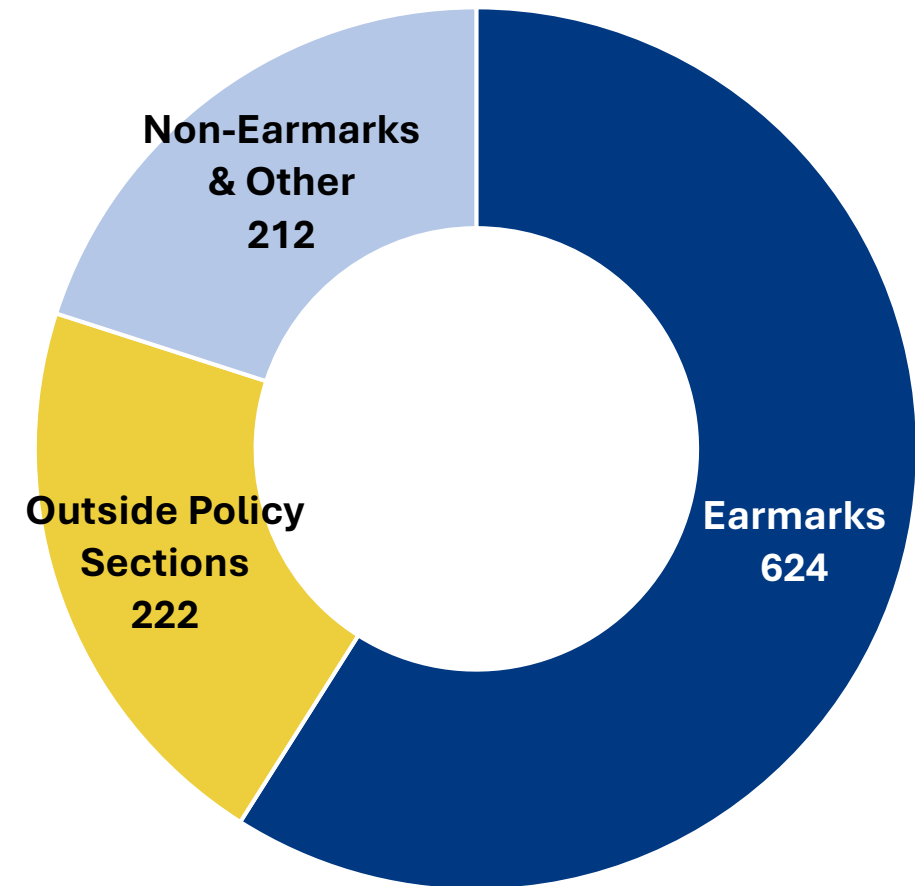
59% of amendments filed to the SWM budget are **earmarks**.

21% of amendments filed to the SWM budget are **outside policy sections**.

The remaining **20%**:

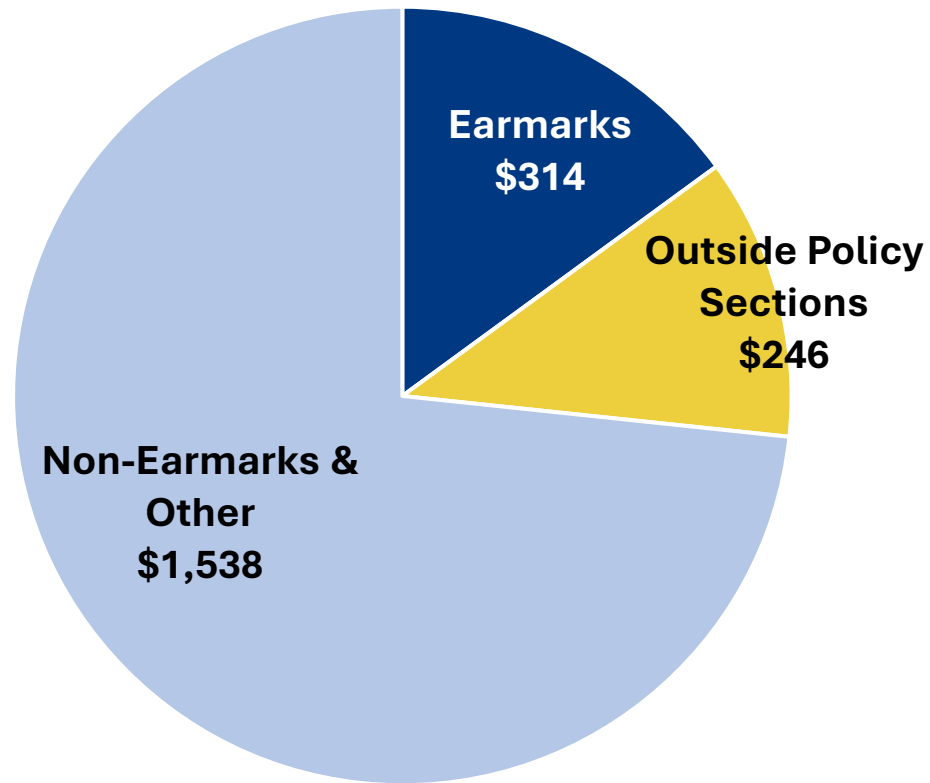
- Add new line-items to the SWM budget.
- Increase line-item appropriations without a designated purpose.
- Introduce new line-item language.
- Amend inside and outside policy language.

Senate Amendments by Type



Fiscal Impact of Amendments

Fiscal Impact of Senate Amendments by Type



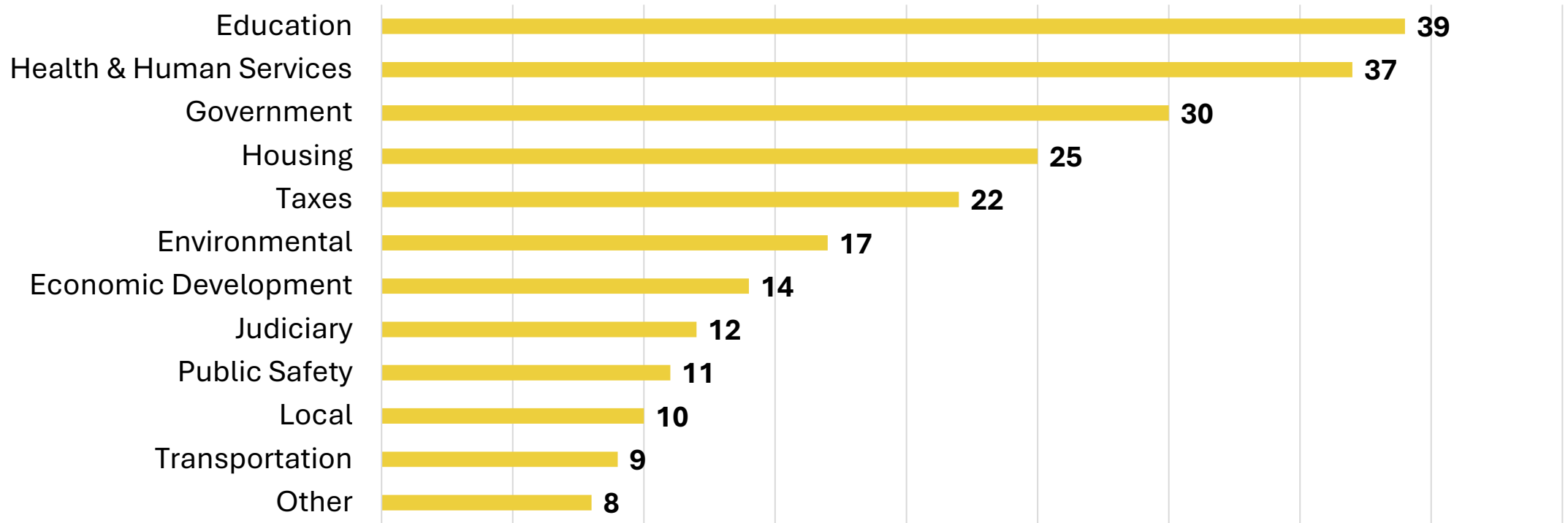
The estimated fiscal impact of all amendments filed to the Senate Budget is **\$2.09 billion**.

Amendments that would provide programmatic funding increases carry the largest fiscal impacts.

Notable high-cost amendments include proposals to:

- Increase funding for Chapter 70 state aid for public schools.
- Establish the Whole Child Grant Program Fund.
- Increase the transfer to the Health Safety Net.
- Increase funding for the Special Education Circuit Breaker Program.

Policy Amendments by Category



The most common policy area for outside section amendments is **Education**, followed by **Health & Human Services** and **Government** policy proposals.

22 outside policy proposals are related to **Taxes**, and 9 are related to **Transportation**.

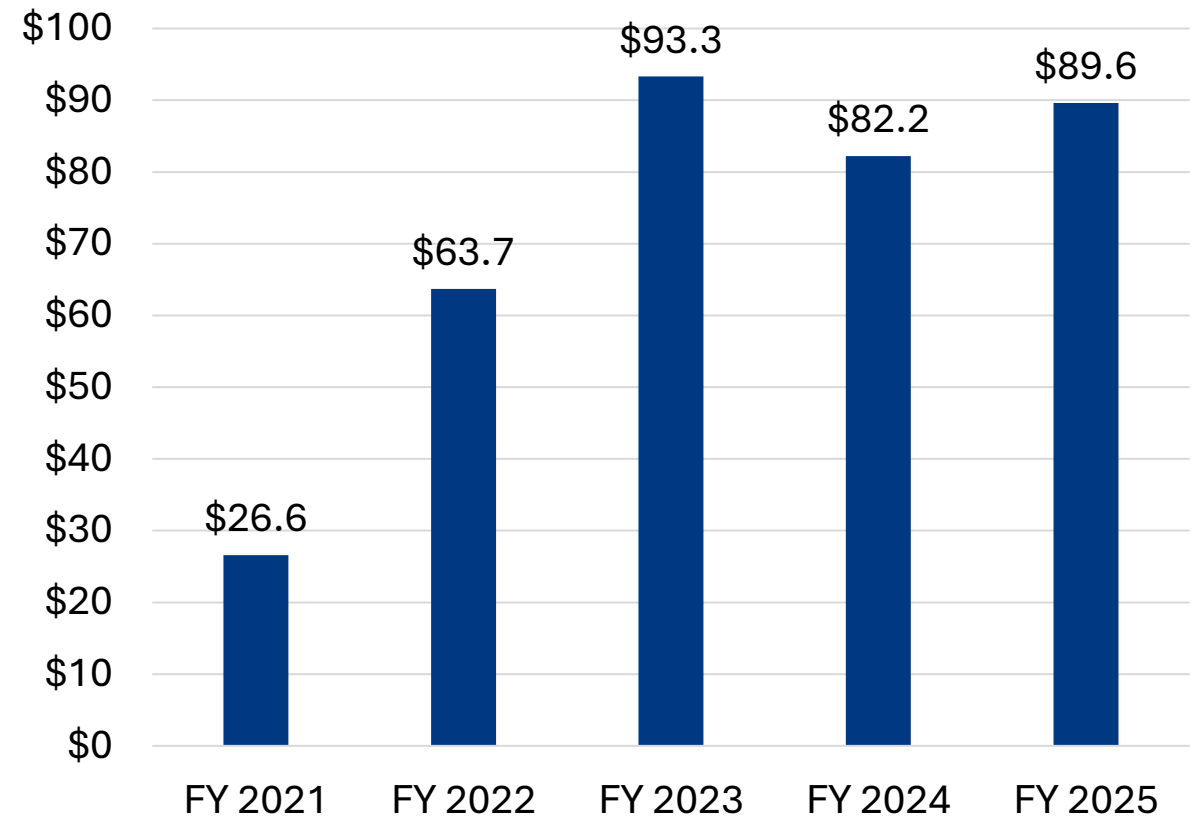
Senate Debate Preview

In FY 2025, the Senate added **\$89.6 million** in spending during debate, \$7.4 million less than was added in FY 2024 (\$82.2 million).

Between FY 2023 and FY 2025, an average of **\$88.4 million** in spending was added to the SWM budget during debate.

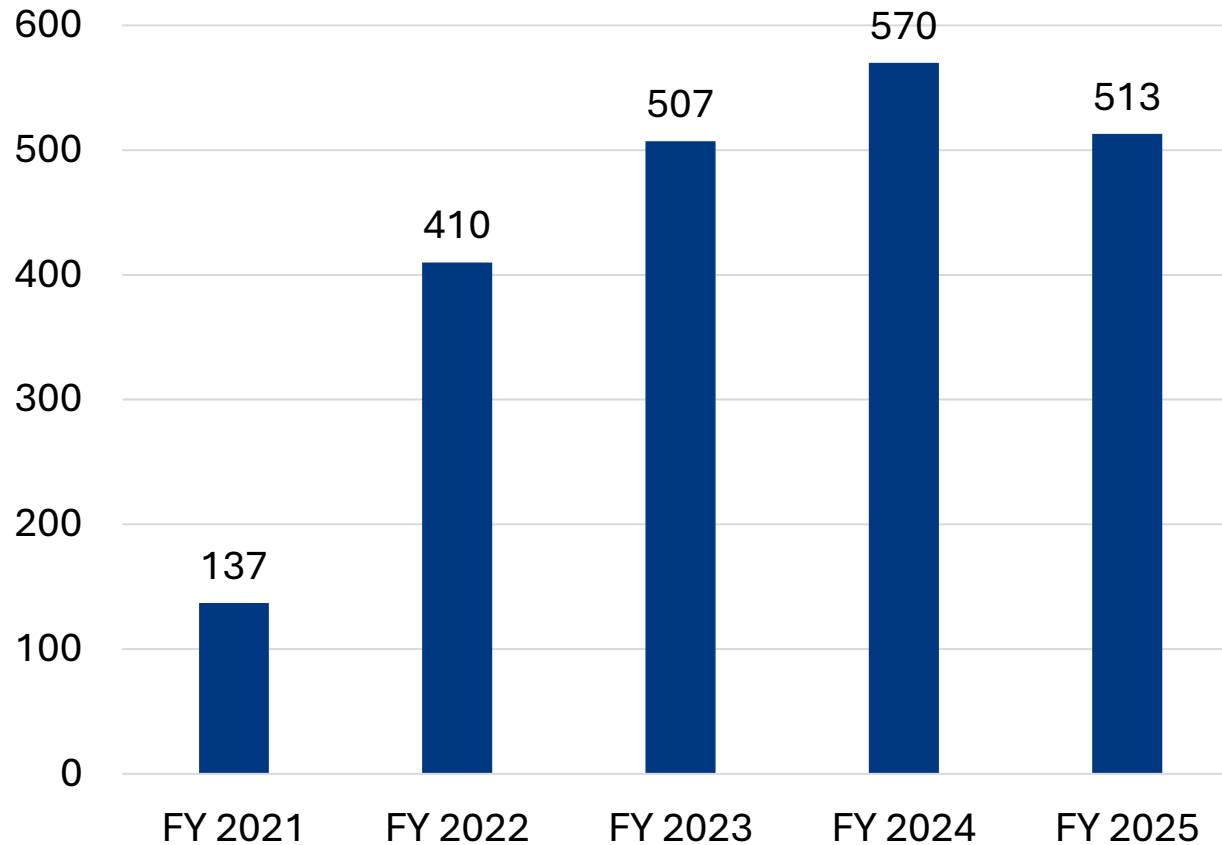
*In FY 2021, the budget debate process was impacted by the pandemic.

Senate Debate Spend by Year



Senate Debate Preview

Senate Adopted Earmarks by Year



In FY 2025, the Senate adopted some form of at least 475 amendments, **43%** of all that were filed.

Within those amendments, the Senate added **513 earmarks**, the majority of which supported specific communities, organizations, and projects.

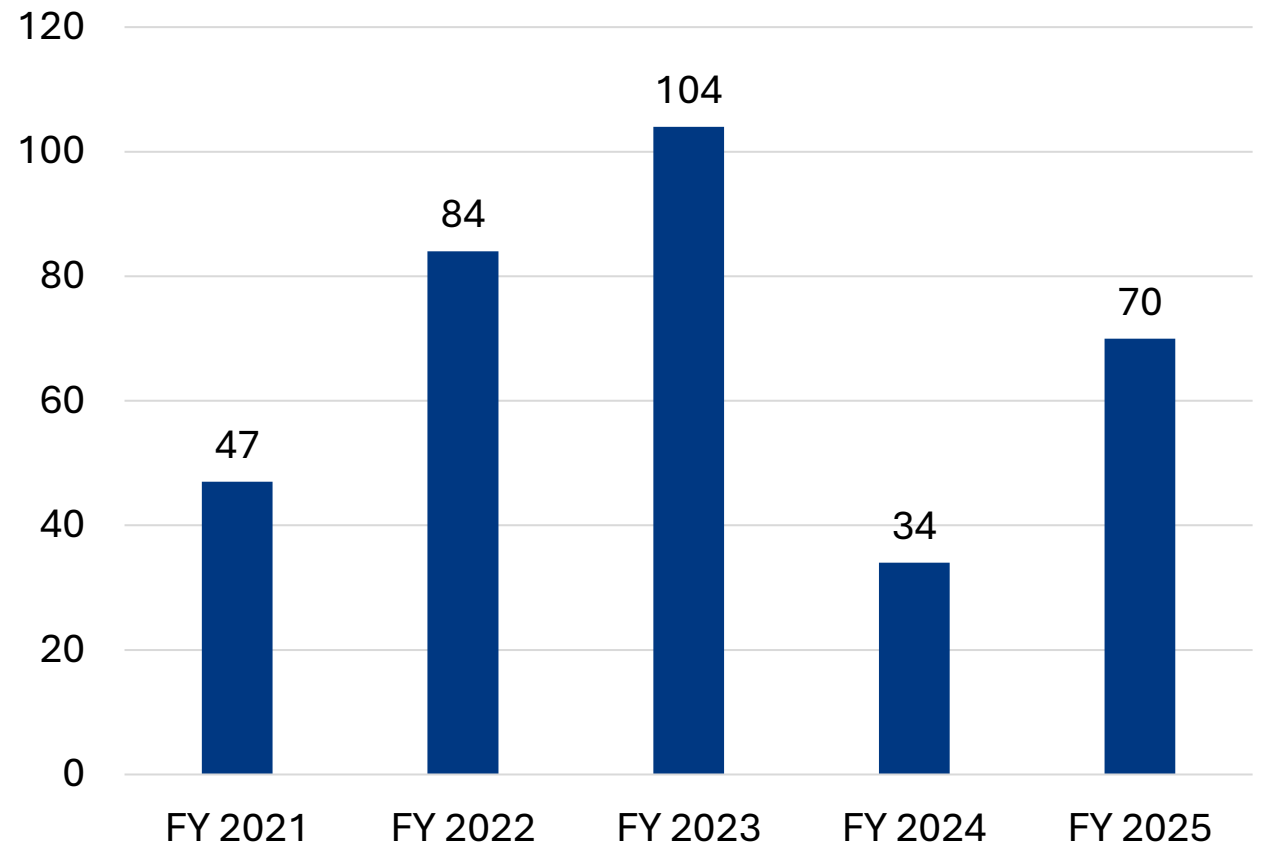
60% of new spending added during Senate debate supported local earmarks.

Senate Debate Preview

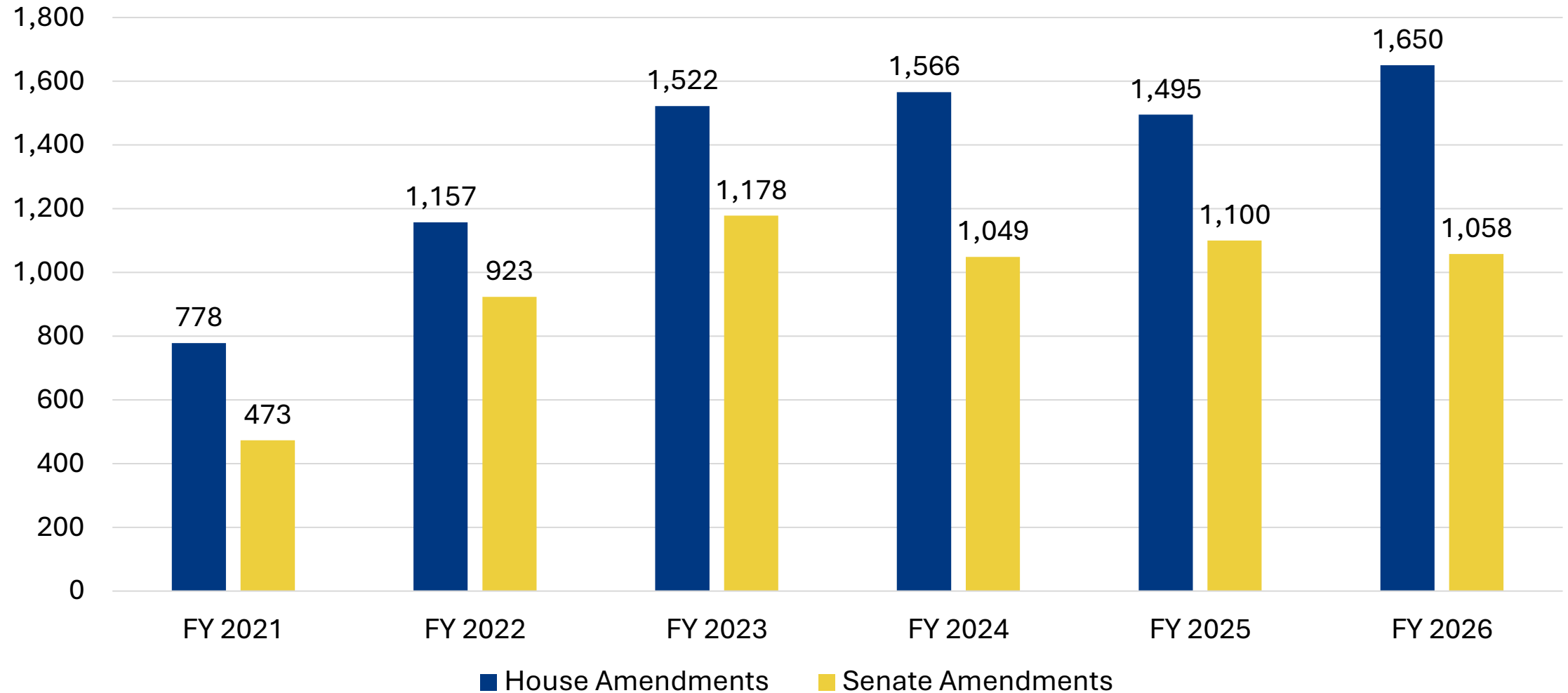
While total floor spending and adopted earmarks have increased in recent years, the number of adopted policy amendments dropped sharply in FY 2024 before rising again in FY 2025.

Last year, the SWM budget included 113 outside sections out of committee and **70 policy sections were adopted on the floor** through 39 amendments.

Senate Adopted Policy Amendments



Senate v. House – Filed Amendments



Senate v. House – Floor Spending

