

HOUSE No. 144

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Elizabeth A. Malia

To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in General Court assembled:

The undersigned legislators and/or citizens respectfully petition for the adoption of the accompanying bill:

An Act ensuring positive transition for at-risk youth.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:
<i>Elizabeth A. Malia</i>	<i>11th Suffolk</i>
<i>Martin J. Walsh, Mayor of the City of Boston</i>	<i>1 City Hall Square Suite 500, Boston MA 02201</i>
<i>Brian M. Ashe</i>	<i>2nd Hampden</i>
<i>Joseph A. Boncore</i>	<i>First Suffolk and Middlesex</i>
<i>Michelle L. Ciccolo</i>	<i>15th Middlesex</i>
<i>Nick Collins</i>	<i>First Suffolk</i>
<i>Daniel R. Cullinane</i>	<i>12th Suffolk</i>
<i>Marjorie C. Decker</i>	<i>25th Middlesex</i>
<i>Sal N. DiDomenico</i>	<i>Middlesex and Suffolk</i>
<i>William J. Driscoll, Jr.</i>	<i>7th Norfolk</i>
<i>Nika C. Elugardo</i>	<i>15th Suffolk</i>
<i>James K. Hawkins</i>	<i>2nd Bristol</i>
<i>Natalie M. Higgins</i>	<i>4th Worcester</i>
<i>Russell E. Holmes</i>	<i>6th Suffolk</i>
<i>Mary S. Keefe</i>	<i>15th Worcester</i>
<i>Paul McMurtry</i>	<i>11th Norfolk</i>
<i>Liz Miranda</i>	<i>5th Suffolk</i>

<i>Michael O. Moore</i>	<i>Second Worcester</i>
<i>Maria Duaine Robinson</i>	<i>6th Middlesex</i>
<i>Daniel J. Ryan</i>	<i>2nd Suffolk</i>
<i>Jon Santiago</i>	<i>9th Suffolk</i>
<i>José F. Tosado</i>	<i>9th Hampden</i>

HOUSE No. 144

By Ms. Malia of Boston, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 144) of Elizabeth A. Malia and others for legislation to provide residential or custodial services to ensure positive transitions for at-risk youths. Children, Families and Persons with Disabilities.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

**In the One Hundred and Ninety-First General Court
(2019-2020)**

An Act ensuring positive transition for at-risk youth.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1 Notwithstanding any other general or special law to the contrary, any agency or office of
2 the Commonwealth providing residential or custodial services to minors, including services
3 provided to minors in custody of the Department of Children and Families, Clinically Intensive
4 Residential Treatment, Intensive Residential Treatment Programs, Continuing Care Inpatient
5 Services or other programs administered through the Department of Mental Health, and juvenile
6 detention programs administered by the Department Youth Services, or entity funded by the
7 Commonwealth to provide the same, shall not discharge any minor in their care or custody or
8 adult in their care or custody who was a minor at the time of their placement, without a transition
9 plan. A transition plan shall address discharge procedures comprehensive on the following
10 subject matters, including but not limited to, housing, continuity of care, health insurance,
11 employment, benefits, and community resources. The agency or office shall take all means
12 necessary to ensure placement into appropriate housing upon discharge. Appropriate housing
13 shall include but shall not be limited to the following: single room occupancies (SROS),

14 transitional housing, rest homes or nurses homes, as well as housing obtained through housing
15 and rental voucher programs and the Family Unification program. Emergency shelters shall not
16 constitute appropriate housing. No later than January 1, 2020, each such agency or organization
17 shall establish or improve the process by which each minor receives a comprehensive transition
18 plan that identifies and addresses the specific needs of each minor in their care. Furthermore, no
19 later than January 1, 2020, any such agency shall implement transition plans and amend any
20 existing relevant regulation or policy inconsistent with this Act as set forth hereunder.