

HOUSE No. 4053

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts



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August 3, 2021

To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives,

I am returning unsigned House Bill No. 4012, “An Act relative to eligibility for transitional aid to families with dependent children.”

This bill, originally included as an outside section to the Fiscal Year 2022 budget, requires the Department of Transitional Assistance (DTA) to eliminate any asset test for Transitional Aid to Families with Dependent Children (TAFDC) applicants. TAFDC extends a vital lifeline to certain Massachusetts residents, but I disagree with eliminating the current asset test completely.

As I explained in my letter returning this section with amendment, I do support reforming the TAFDC asset rule to allow recipients who meet the asset test at the time of application to continue to accrue assets in excess of the current limit without risk of losing eligibility for TAFDC. I would welcome the opportunity to further develop this policy in partnership with the Legislature to ensure these benefits are available for the Commonwealth’s families in highest need.

For these reasons, I am returning House Bill No. 4012 unsigned.

Respectfully submitted,

Charles D. Baker,
Governor