

# HOUSE . . . . . No. 4389

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## The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, February 15, 2024.

The committee on Children, Families and Persons with Disabilities, to whom was referred the petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 147) of Marjorie C. Decker and others relative to childcare assistance to homeless families, reports recommending that the accompanying bill (House, No. 4389) ought to pass [Representatives Berthiaume of Spencer and Sullivan-Almeida of Abington dissent].

For the committee,

JAY D. LIVINGSTONE.

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 4389**

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**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

**In the One Hundred and Ninety-Third General Court  
(2023-2024)**

An Act providing immediate child care assistance to homeless families.

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

1           SECTION 1. Chapter 15D of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2022 Official  
2 Edition, is hereby amended by adding the following section:-

3           Section 19. (a) A family placed in temporary emergency assistance shelter shall be  
4 eligible for the department of early education and care’s homeless child care assistance vouchers  
5 when the family first arrives at the shelter and at any time the family chooses while residing in  
6 the shelter regardless of whether they meet work requirements as determined by the department  
7 of transitional assistance.

8           (b) A family who meets the McKinney-Vento Homelessness Assistance Act definition of  
9 homeless shall be eligible for the department of early education and care’s homeless child care  
10 assistance vouchers. {regardless of whether they meet work requirements as determined by the  
11 Department of Transitional Assistance}

12           (c) A letter verifying shelter residency will qualify a family for a full-time childcare  
13 referral from the department of transitional assistance.

14 (d) Upon (i) a family's entry to a temporary emergency assistance shelter, domestic  
15 violence shelter, substance abuse and recovery shelter or non-emergency assistance shelter, or  
16 (ii) upon family's receipt of a letter from EEC or its designees verifying that a family meets the  
17 McKinney-Vento Homelessness Assistance Act definition of homeless, any of the family's  
18 children ages zero to three years shall be considered as qualifying for early intervention services  
19 according to DPH operational standards. This qualification shall ensure eligibility for services  
20 regardless of the presence or absence of other relevant risk factors, and qualification shall begin  
21 from the date of their entry into shelter or receipt of McKinney-Vento verification letter and  
22 continue for one year after their exit from shelter or receipt of McKinney-Vento verification  
23 letter or until the day before the child's third birthday, whichever occurs first.

24 SECTION 2. The department shall adopt regulations or policies and remove procedural  
25 barriers for the administration of this act within 90 days of the effective date of this act.