

**SENATE . . . . . No. 286**

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

***Linda Dorcena Forry***

*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 providing immediate childcare assistance to homeless families.

PETITION OF:

| NAME:                          | DISTRICT/ADDRESS:                                  |
|--------------------------------|--|
| <i>Linda Dorcena Forry</i>     | <i>First Suffolk</i>                               |
| <i>Marjorie C. Decker</i>      | <i>25th Middlesex</i>                              |
| <i>Paul R. Heroux</i>          | <i>2nd Bristol</i>                                 |
| <i>Benjamin Swan</i>           | <i>11th Hampden</i>                                |
| <i>James B. Eldridge</i>       | <i>Middlesex and Worcester</i>                     |
| <i>Thomas M. McGee</i>         | <i>Third Essex</i>                                 |
| <i>William N. Brownsberger</i> | <i>Second Suffolk and Middlesex</i>                |
| <i>Barbara L'Italien</i>       | <i>Second Essex and Middlesex</i>                  |
| <i>Jason M. Lewis</i>          | <i>Fifth Middlesex</i>                             |
| <i>Brian A. Joyce</i>          | <i>Norfolk, Bristol and Plymouth</i>               |
| <i>Daniel Cullinane</i>        | <i>12th Suffolk</i>                                |
| <i>Denise Provost</i>          | <i>27th Middlesex</i>                              |
| <i>Sal N. DiDomenico</i>       | <i>Middlesex and Suffolk</i>                       |
| <i>Joan B. Lovely</i>          | <i>Second Essex</i>                                |
| <i>Anne M. Gobi</i>            | <i>Worcester, Hampden, Hampshire and Middlesex</i> |
| <i>Chris Walsh</i>             | <i>6th Middlesex</i>                               |

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By Ms. Forry, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 286) of Linda Dorcena Forry, Marjorie C. Decker, Paul R. Heroux, Benjamin Swan and other members of the General Court for legislation to provide immediate childcare assistance to homeless families. Education.

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The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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**In the One Hundred and Eighty-Ninth General Court  
(2015-2016)**  
\_\_\_\_\_

An Act providing immediate childcare 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 is hereby amended by adding the  
2 following section:-

3 Section 19. (a) A Family placed in temporary emergency assistance shelter, domestic  
4 violence shelter or non-emergency assistance shelter by the department of transitional assistance  
5 shall be eligible for the department of early education and care’s homeless child care assistance  
6 vouchers when the family first arrives at the shelter and at any time the family chooses while  
7 residing in the shelter.

8 (b) A family living in a shelter shall be eligible for full-time child care.

9 (c) It shall not be necessary for a family placed in a shelter to document the family’s  
10 income in order to access homeless child care assistance.

11 (d) The initial voucher shall be written for up to 12 months or up to 30 days after the  
12 family's scheduled departure date, whichever period is shorter.

13 SECTION 2. The department shall adopt regulations or policies for the administration of  
14 this act within 90 days of the effective date of this act.