

SENATE No. 345

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

James T. Welch

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 creating a disproportionate share childcare provider fund.

PETITION OF:

NAME:

James T. Welch

DISTRICT/ADDRESS:

Hampden

SENATE No. 345

By Mr. Welch, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 345) of James T. Welch for legislation to create a disproportionate share childcare provider fund. Education.

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION
SEE SENATE, NO. 333 OF 2017-2018.]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

An Act creating a disproportionate share childcare provider fund.

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. Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary there shall be
2 established under the Department of Early Education and Care a new fund to be known as the
3 “Disproportionate Share Childcare Provider Fund”. This fund shall provide supplemental
4 funding to certain childcare provider agencies which care for a disproportionate number of high
5 risk children and which meet the criteria set forth in SECTION 3 of this act.

6 SECTION 2. On an annual basis not less than fifty percent of licensing fees collected by
7 the Department of Early Education and Care shall be deposited into the Disproportionate Share
8 Childcare Provider Fund established in SECTION 1 of this act.

9 SECTION 3. Childcare provider agencies which meet the following criteria shall be
10 eligible for supplemental funding from the Disproportionate Childcare Provider Fund:

11 I.) Be an agency which offers center based, family and after school early education
12 and care programs with a licensed capacity of over 150; and

13 II.) Have at least 95% of their capacity serving children whose families live at or
14 below the federal poverty level; and

15 III.) Not be a provider of HeadStart or eligible for federal funding as a Community
16 Anti-Poverty Agency; and

17 IV.) Receive not less than 90% of agency early education and care revenue from the
18 Department of Early Education and Care; and

19 V.) Operate in a designated “gateway municipality” as defined by Section 3A of
20 Chapter 23A of the General Laws.

21 SECTION 4. Licensed childcare provider agencies which meet the criteria set forth in
22 SECTION 3 of this act shall be entitled to an annual payment from the Disproportionate
23 Childcare Provider Fund. Payment to eligible agencies shall be made in a manner prescribed by
24 the Commissioner of Early Education and Care. All funds contained in the account shall be
25 expended to eligible licensed childcare provider agencies bi-annually in proportion to the
26 licensed capacity of the eligible agency.

27 SECTION 5. This act shall take effect upon its passage.