

SENATE No. 890

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Liz Miranda

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 promoting housing stability for families by strengthening the HomeBASE program.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	
<i>Liz Miranda</i>	<i>Second Suffolk</i>	
<i>Sal N. DiDomenico</i>	<i>Middlesex and Suffolk</i>	<i>2/8/2023</i>
<i>Michael O. Moore</i>	<i>Second Worcester</i>	<i>2/21/2023</i>
<i>Patricia D. Jehlen</i>	<i>Second Middlesex</i>	<i>3/6/2023</i>
<i>James B. Eldridge</i>	<i>Middlesex and Worcester</i>	<i>3/6/2023</i>
<i>Rebecca L. Rausch</i>	<i>Norfolk, Worcester and Middlesex</i>	<i>3/6/2023</i>

SENATE No. 890

By Ms. Miranda, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 890) of Liz Miranda, Sal N. DiDomenico, Michael O. Moore, Patricia D. Jehlen and other members of the Senate for legislation to promote housing stability for families by strengthening the HomeBASE program. Housing.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

An Act promoting housing stability for families by strengthening the HomeBASE program.

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 30 of chapter 23B of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2020 Official Edition,
2 is hereby amended by inserting after subsection A, paragraph (e) the following:-

3 (f) for re-housing, short-term housing transition program benefits, which shall be
4 available initially for 24 months and then in 12-month, renewable allotments, to eligible families.

5 The department shall provide further allotments of household assistance from the
6 Massachusetts

7 short-term housing transition program to families that received household assistance in a
8 prior period to prevent eviction from existing housing or to relocate to another housing situation
9 in cases where a.) the family complied with their rehousing plan during the prior period of
10 assistance and b.) continues to include a child under the age of 21 or a pregnant person.

11 The department shall not impose income eligibility restrictions on families once they are
12 enrolled in the program.

13 The department shall not require families to be evicted from their existing housing or to
14 otherwise establish that they fall into one of the four categories of affirmative eligibility for
15 emergency assistance shelter currently listed in item 7004-0101.

16 Families in summary process commenced for a reason determined by the department to
17 be a no fault or excused fault reason for eviction can apply and be found eligible for short-term
18 transition program benefits in order to prevent eviction from existing housing or permit family
19 relocate to another housing situation. The department shall allow families to apply and be found
20 eligible for this short-term housing benefit after the summons and complaint is filed in court.
21 Families shall be found eligible for short-term housing transition benefits if, but for feasible
22 alternative housing, they meet the requirements for family shelter.

23 The department shall provide household assistance in an amount up to \$30,000 in the first
24 24-month period, or a higher cap as established in line item 7004-0108, and up to \$15,000, or
25 higher cap as established in line item 7004-0108, in subsequent 12-month periods to eligible
26 families.

27 The department shall allow families to combine and maximize benefits under the
28 Massachusetts short-term housing transition program and residential assistance for families in
29 transition funds from line item 7004-9316 if families are eligible for both programs, such funds
30 are needed to promote housing stability, and the assistance is non-duplicative.