



Bills Relative to Addressing Homelessness

Bill #	Sponsor	Name	Summary
H2360 / SD1822	Rushing/Forry	An Act Relative to Interagency Efforts to Reduce and Prevent Homelessness	This legislation creates a Memorandum of Understanding among the Secretaries of Housing and Economic Development, Health and Human Services, Labor and Workforce Development, Education, and Administration and Finance to direct these agencies to work together in coordinating services and resources for households that are facing economic instability and homelessness.
HD3369 / SD1741	Vega/ Forry	An Act Relative to the Economic Mobility and Stability Program	This legislation brings together stakeholders to study the many self-sufficiency programs that have been created to help households increase their incomes and build assets. This bill creates a commission to study these self-sufficiency programs that will help shape an economic mobility and financial stability program. The commission will also examine the impact of cliff effects and determine ways to adjust assistance in response to changes in income.
SD1163	Eldridge	An Act Relative to the Massachusetts Rental Voucher Program	This bill codifies the Massachusetts Rental Voucher Program (MRVP) into the General Laws. Currently, MRVP is only authorized through the annual state budget. Codifying the program will create a more permanent authorization and allow for a more deliberative process to improve the program through legislation as MRVP grows to serve more households with permanent affordable housing solutions.
HD1074	Honan/Forry	An Act Financing the Production & Preservation of Housing for Low & Moderate Income	This legislation invests \$1.7 billion through the capital budget in affordable housing over five years, providing critical funding to produce, preserve, and modernize public and affordable housing in communities across the Commonwealth. The bill also extends the state Low Income Housing Tax Credit and expands its annual authorization by \$5 million to preserve affordable
HD3564 / SD1958	Decker/Forry	An Act Providing Immediate Child Care Assistance to Homeless Families	This legislation will allow families living in homeless shelters to qualify for state-funded child care vouchers, providing children with subsidized early education and parents with a safe environment to leave their children while they pursue employment opportunities. Simply put, it is not feasible to job hunt or go on interviews with a child present; this piece of legislation would provide child care opportunities to homeless parents as they enter shelter, so they can immediately start working to get their families back on a path to success.

HD1262/SD176	Decker/DiDomenico	An Act Relative to the Well Being and Care of a Child	This bill would eliminate the so-called “family cap rule” that currently prohibits 9,400 children from receiving Transitional Aid to Families with Dependent Children program (TAFDC) benefits because their family was participating in the TAFDC program at the time of their conception (or shortly thereafter). This punitive and misguided policy has left thousands of Massachusetts families further in poverty. The bill would allow
HD1264/SD1639	Eldridge/Decker	An Act Improving the Earned Income Credit for Healthier Families	Increases the state Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) from 23 percent to 50 percent of the federal EITC to reward work and increase economic mobility. This bill would also improve outreach efforts to increase awareness and usage of the EITC as well as ensure victims of domestic violence could access the credit.
HD1245	Decker	An Act To Protect Families Experiencing Homelessness from Having to Sleep in Unsafe Places.	This bill would direct the Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) to provide Emergency Assistance (EA) shelter to otherwise eligible families with children without requiring families to prove that they already have stayed in a place not meant for human habitation, such as a car, emergency room, or campground.
HD1250	Decker	An Act to Further Provide a Rental Arrearage Program	This bill would reestablish a rental arrearage program under the Department of Transitional Assistance (DTA), based on the successful homelessness prevention program administered by the Department for many years. The new program would continue to provide up to four months of assistance to pay for back rent or mortgage payments, and now would serve families, individuals, and unaccompanied youth with incomes up to 130% of the federal poverty guidelines. Agencies participating in the Interagency Council on Housing and Homelessness would collaborate with DTA to refer potential participants and provide wraparound support services.
HD969	Provost	An Act to End Child Homelessness	This bill would require the Department of Children and Families (DCF), in consultation with the Department of Housing and Community Development to conduct an assessment to ensure that no child under the age of 18 would be forced to stay in a place not meant for human habitation upon a household’s eviction from subsidized housing or termination from a publicly funded shelter
HD968	Provost	An Act to Prevent Homelessness among Recipients of Transitional Assistance	This bill would establish a homelessness prevention and early intervention program within the Department of Transitional Assistance to give DTA the tools to help families and individuals remain housed.

HD925 / SD1651	Honan/Forry	An Act Relative to Housing Production	This legislation provides financial incentives and new tools to meet the Commonwealth's housing needs. The bill requires cities and towns to allow multifamily housing in smart growth locations, accessory dwelling units, and open space residential developments as of right. It also presents new tools and strategies for regionalization and interagency collaboration to plan for the housing Massachusetts residents want and need.
HD989 / SD1640	Honan/Forry	An Act Relative to Low-Income Housing Tax Credits (HD989 / SD1640)	The state Low Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC) is a critical financing tool to develop and preserve affordable housing. Unfortunately, many affordability restrictions are due to expire over the next two to three years. This legislation increases the state LIHTC annual authorization by \$5 million for the purpose of preserving affordable housing. The bill would also allow the tax credit to be taken in one year instead of over five years.
HD993 / SD1621	Honan/Forry	An Act Relative to Smart Growth Multifamily Housing Production	These bills require cities and towns to designate zoning districts where multifamily housing can be built as of right and without the need of a special permit in smart growth locations. This will help meet our housing need of building nearly 17,000 new homes a year to keep pace with demand. Representative Christine Barber also sponsored legislation with the same requirement in An Act to Address Equal Access to Housing through Local Zoning (HD2963) .
HD3116 / SD833	Barber/Chang-Diaz	An Act Relative to Preventing Discriminatory Land Use and Permitting Decisions	This legislation makes it an unlawful discriminatory practice for government entities to reject an affordable housing development simply on the basis that the development includes affordable housing or housing that is suitable for families with children. The legislation makes it clear that government entities are entitled to make land use decisions based on bona fide governmental interests. This type of unfair socio-economic discrimination has led to a shortage of affordable housing in Massachusetts.
HD2225 / SD588	Kulik&Honan/Creem	An Act to Sustain Community Preservation Revenue (HD2225 / SD588)	The Community Preservation Act (CPA) creates housing, jobs, and economic development in 172 communities across the Commonwealth. The foundation of the CPA is the promise of a strong state/local partnership for funding the program. Each CPA community voted to add a small surcharge to local property taxes with the state committing to provide matching funds. The partnership is in jeopardy as the state match has declined as more communities enact the CPA. This legislation ensures that the CPA will remain an effective resource by increasing the program's dedicated funding component for the
HD1480/SD1028	Benson/Donoghue	An Act Establishing a Student Tuition Recovery Fund	Creates a Student Tuition Recovery Fund (STRF) which can reimburse students who are entitled to a refund of tuition and related costs if the for-profit school they attended closed, failed to provide the services promised

HD2573/SD1768	Gordon/ Spilka	An Act Establishing a Family and Medical Leave and Temporary Disability Leave Insurance Program	Creates an insurance program to provide partial wage replacement for workers who need to recover from a serious illness, care for a family member, or to care for a newborn, newly adopted, or new foster child.
HD3034/SD1103	Brodeur /Eldridge	An Act Relative to Fairness in Debt Collection	Protects individuals with consumer debt by ensuring they retain a basic level of earnings to pay for essential needs. Provides protections from unscrupulous practices of certain debt collectors by requiring that collectors provide evidence of the debt. Limits the additional fees and interest that collectors can charge after the judgment, and prohibits the arrest of a borrower who does not pay a judgment