

HOUSE No. 141

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand Nine

An Act requiring the Department of Transitional Assistance to track and report on the use of emergency shelter services by 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 Paragraph B of Section 2 of chapter 18 of the General Laws is hereby amended by adding
2 after clause (i) the following clause: -

3 (j) Notwithstanding any other general or special law or rule or regulation, the department
4 of transitional assistance shall report quarterly to the house and senate committees on ways and
5 means on the number of families who apply for emergency assistance funded family shelter, the
6 number of families approved for shelter, the number of families denied shelter along with
7 reasons for denials, the home community of families receiving shelter, the number of families
8 receiving shelter within each home community, the number of available shelter slots within each
9 home community, the income level of families receiving shelter, the number of families
10 receiving shelter who had previously accessed state-funded programs to reduce homelessness
11 and the programs that had been accessed, the composition of families receiving shelter, the
12 reason that the household is seeking emergency family shelter, the reasons that families exit
13 shelter, including reasons for voluntary departure and termination, exiting families' housing

14 plans, including type of housing arrangement, subsidy status, monthly rent, and gross monthly
15 income, and any other information that the department determines to be necessary in evaluating
16 the operation of the emergency assistance family shelters program. The report shall also include
17 information, by type of shelter, on average length of stay, average cost per household served,
18 average number of shelter slots not used either as the result of no placement being made or of a
19 placed family not making use of shelter, and an analysis of this data, including an analysis of
20 causes relating to any significant differences in the data for each type of shelter. The report shall
21 also provide a status report on the outcomes of department-funded homeless prevention
22 initiatives providing information on the nature and total cost of each such initiative, the number
23 of families served by each such initiative, the average cost per family of each such initiative, the
24 affordability and stability of housing or alternative shelter placements for prevention program
25 recipients including type of housing arrangement, subsidy status, monthly rent, and gross
26 monthly income, and any other information that the department determines to be necessary in
27 evaluating the operation of state-funded homeless prevention programs.”