

HOUSE No. 2003

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Peter V. Kocot

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 to provide improved nutrition for homeless women and children.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	DATE ADDED:
<i>Peter V. Kocot</i>	<i>1st Hampshire</i>	<i>1/14/2015</i>
<i>John W. Scibak</i>	<i>2nd Hampshire</i>	<i>2/2/2015</i>
<i>Ellen Story</i>	<i>3rd Hampshire</i>	<i>1/28/2015</i>
<i>Benjamin Swan</i>	<i>11th Hampden</i>	<i>1/29/2015</i>

HOUSE No. 2003

By Mr. Kocot of Northampton, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 2003) of Peter V. Kocot and others relative to the nutritional needs of homeless residents. Public Health.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

An Act to provide improved nutrition for homeless women and children.

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. Section 30 of Chapter 23B of the General Laws is hereby amended by
2 adding at the end thereof the following:-

3 "G. The department shall develop a pilot program in the Franklin, Hampshire, Hampden
4 and Berkshire regions of western Massachusetts to assess the need for and to provide nutritious
5 meals to those homeless families placed in hotels and motels in said region, provided further,
6 that the department shall create a working group including, but not limited to the department of
7 transitional assistance, the University of Massachusetts at Amherst, the Smith College School of
8 Social Work, the department of children and families, the department of mental health, the
9 department of elementary and secondary education, Project Bread, the Massachusetts Restaurant
10 Association, faith based organizations, CISA, the Department of Agricultural Resources, the
11 network of food pantries and survival centers, the Food Bank of western Massachusetts, HAP,
12 the Western Massachusetts Network to End Homelessness, the Western Massachusetts Council
13 of Human Services Providers and regional community action agencies. Said pilot project shall

14 develop methods and funding sources to provide access to nutritious meals, including fresh fruits
15 and vegetables, to those temporarily housed in hotels and motels. The working group shall also
16 investigate the methods of creating weekly "family homework nights" at schools attended by
17 homeless children, where all students at each school selected, families and educational
18 professionals can meet in a school setting to complete homework, get extra schoolwork help,
19 socialize in a safe setting, access human services programs and receive a hot, nutritious meal.
20 The department working group shall assess the cost and effectiveness of these initiatives and
21 present its findings to the House and Senate Committees on Ways and Means and the Executive
22 Office of Administration and Finance twice each year."