

SENATE No. 2256

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

SENATE, Thursday, April 28, 2016

The committee on Education to whom was referred the petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 286) of Linda Dorcena Forry, Marjorie C. Decker, Paul R. Heroux, Benjamin Swan and other members of the General Court for legislation to provide immediate childcare assistance to homeless families,- reports the accompanying bill (Senate, No. 2256).

For the committee,
Sonia Chang-Diaz

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An Act providing immediate childcare assistance to homeless 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 SECTION 1. Chapter 15D of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2014 Official
2 Edition, is hereby amended by adding the following section:-

3 Section 19. (a) A Family placed in temporary emergency assistance shelter, domestic
4 violence shelter or non-emergency assistance shelter by the department of transitional assistance
5 shall be eligible for the department of early education and care's homeless child care assistance
6 vouchers when the family first arrives at the shelter and at any time the family chooses while
7 residing in the shelter.

8 (b) A family living in a shelter shall be eligible for full-time child care.

9 (c) It shall not be necessary for a family placed in a shelter to document the family's
10 income in order to access homeless child care assistance.

11 (d) The initial voucher shall be written for up to 12 months or up to 30 days after the
12 family's scheduled departure date.

13 SECTION 2. The department shall adopt regulations or policies for the administration of
14 this act within 90 days of the effective date of this act.