

SENATE No. 257

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Linda Dorcena Forry

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 providing immediate childcare assistance to homeless families.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	
<i>Linda Dorcena Forry</i>	<i>First Suffolk</i>	
<i>Jason M. Lewis</i>	<i>Fifth Middlesex</i>	<i>2/1/2017</i>
<i>Thomas M. McGee</i>	<i>Third Essex</i>	<i>2/1/2017</i>
<i>Jack Lewis</i>	<i>7th Middlesex</i>	<i>2/1/2017</i>
<i>William L. Crocker, Jr.</i>	<i>2nd Barnstable</i>	<i>2/1/2017</i>
<i>Mathew Muratore</i>	<i>1st Plymouth</i>	<i>2/1/2017</i>
<i>Patrick M. O'Connor</i>	<i>Plymouth and Norfolk</i>	<i>2/1/2017</i>
<i>Todd M. Smola</i>	<i>1st Hampden</i>	<i>2/1/2017</i>
<i>Joan B. Lovely</i>	<i>Second Essex</i>	<i>2/1/2017</i>
<i>Sal N. DiDomenico</i>	<i>Middlesex and Suffolk</i>	<i>2/1/2017</i>
<i>Brian M. Ashe</i>	<i>2nd Hampden</i>	<i>2/1/2017</i>
<i>Daniel Cullinane</i>	<i>12th Suffolk</i>	<i>2/1/2017</i>
<i>Denise Provost</i>	<i>27th Middlesex</i>	<i>2/1/2017</i>
<i>Jay R. Kaufman</i>	<i>15th Middlesex</i>	<i>2/1/2017</i>
<i>Michael D. Brady</i>	<i>Second Plymouth and Bristol</i>	<i>2/1/2017</i>
<i>Paul R. Heroux</i>	<i>2nd Bristol</i>	<i>2/1/2017</i>
<i>Michael J. Barrett</i>	<i>Third Middlesex</i>	<i>2/2/2017</i>
<i>James B. Eldridge</i>	<i>Middlesex and Worcester</i>	<i>2/3/2017</i>

<i>Eileen M. Donoghue</i>	<i>First Middlesex</i>	<i>2/3/2017</i>
<i>Anne M. Gobi</i>	<i>Worcester, Hampden, Hampshire and Middlesex</i>	<i>2/3/2017</i>
<i>Eric P. Lesser</i>	<i>First Hampden and Hampshire</i>	<i>2/3/2017</i>
<i>Patricia D. Jehlen</i>	<i>Second Middlesex</i>	<i>2/3/2017</i>
<i>Mary S. Keefe</i>	<i>15th Worcester</i>	<i>2/3/2017</i>
<i>William N. Brownsberger</i>	<i>Second Suffolk and Middlesex</i>	
<i>Michael O. Moore</i>	<i>Second Worcester</i>	<i>2/6/2017</i>
<i>Sonia Chang-Diaz</i>	<i>Second Suffolk</i>	<i>3/3/2017</i>
<i>Cynthia Stone Creem</i>	<i>First Middlesex and Norfolk</i>	<i>3/16/2017</i>

SENATE No. 257

By Ms. Forry, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 257) of Linda Dorcena Forry, Jason M. Lewis, Thomas M. McGee, Jack Lewis and other members of the General Court for legislation to provide immediate childcare assistance to homeless families. Education.

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION
SEE SENATE, NO. 286 OF 2015-2016.]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

**In the One Hundred and Ninetieth General Court
(2017-2018)**

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 residing in a temporary shelter, including but not limited to a
4 congregate, motel , co-sheltering or scattered-site shelter provided through the department of
5 housing and community development, a shelter provided through the department of public health
6 or a domestic violence shelter, shall be deemed to meet the department’s service need
7 requirements for subsidized full-time child care and shall be eligible for subsidized child care for
8 a minimum of 6 months while residing in said shelter. If, after 6 months, a family continues to
9 reside in shelter, financial and non-service need eligibility factors shall be verified in order to
10 receive subsidized child care.

11 (b) Parents receiving a child care subsidy pursuant to this section after 6 months in shelter
12 may be required to contribute to the cost of child care services they receive in accordance with
13 the sliding fee scale established by the department pending verification of financial and other
14 non-service need eligibility factors.

15 (c) A family receiving a child care subsidy pursuant to this section shall continue to be
16 deemed to meet the department's service need requirements for full-time subsidized child care
17 for 30 days after the family leaves shelter. A family seeking to continue to receive child care
18 financial assistance for more than 30 days after the family leaves shelter shall continue to receive
19 such assistance provided the family meets the department's requirements for an income eligible
20 child care subsidy.

21 SECTION 2. The department of early education and care shall adopt regulations or
22 policies to implement this act within 90 days of the effective date of this act.