

**SENATE . . . . . No. 719**

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**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

PRESENTED BY:

***James B. Eldridge***

*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 relative to the Massachusetts Rental Voucher Program.**

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	
<i>James B. Eldridge</i>	<i>Middlesex and Worcester</i>	
<i>Michael D. Brady</i>	<i>Second Plymouth and Bristol</i>	<i>1/30/2017</i>
<i>Marjorie C. Decker</i>	<i>25th Middlesex</i>	<i>1/30/2017</i>
<i>José F. Tosado</i>	<i>9th Hampden</i>	<i>1/30/2017</i>
<i>Michelle M. DuBois</i>	<i>10th Plymouth</i>	<i>1/30/2017</i>
<i>Barbara A. L'Italien</i>	<i>Second Essex and Middlesex</i>	<i>1/30/2017</i>
<i>David Paul Linsky</i>	<i>5th Middlesex</i>	<i>1/31/2017</i>
<i>John J. Lawn, Jr.</i>	<i>10th Middlesex</i>	<i>2/1/2017</i>
<i>Jason M. Lewis</i>	<i>Fifth Middlesex</i>	<i>2/1/2017</i>
<i>Kay Khan</i>	<i>11th Middlesex</i>	<i>2/1/2017</i>
<i>Chris Walsh</i>	<i>6th Middlesex</i>	<i>2/1/2017</i>
<i>Byron Rushing</i>	<i>9th Suffolk</i>	<i>2/1/2017</i>
<i>Jack Lewis</i>	<i>7th Middlesex</i>	<i>2/2/2017</i>
<i>Joan B. Lovely</i>	<i>Second Essex</i>	<i>2/3/2017</i>
<i>Sean Garballey</i>	<i>23rd Middlesex</i>	<i>2/3/2017</i>
<i>Elizabeth A. Malia</i>	<i>11th Suffolk</i>	<i>2/3/2017</i>
<i>Sal N. DiDomenico</i>	<i>Middlesex and Suffolk</i>	<i>2/3/2017</i>
<i>Dylan Fernandes</i>	<i>Barnstable, Dukes and Nantucket</i>	<i>2/3/2017</i>

*Jennifer L. Flanagan*

*Worcester and Middlesex*

*2/14/2017*

*Denise Provost*

*27th Middlesex*

*2/14/2017*

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By Mr. Eldridge, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 719) of James B. Eldridge, Michael D. Brady, Marjorie C. Decker, Jose F. Tosado and other members of the General Court for legislation relative to the Massachusetts Rental Voucher Program. Housing.

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**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

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

An Act relative to the Massachusetts Rental Voucher Program.

*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 121B of the General Laws is hereby amended by adding the  
2 following section:-

3           Section 61. (a) The department of housing and community development shall, subject to  
4 appropriation, establish and administer the Massachusetts Rental Voucher Program, a program of  
5 rental assistance for low-income families and elderly persons through mobile and project-based  
6 vouchers.

7           (b) To be eligible for the program, (1) incomes for households shall not exceed 50 per  
8 cent of the area median income, as determined by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban  
9 Development, and (2) households shall meet eligibility requirements as required by the  
10 Legislature and applicable regulations and guidance.

11           (c) The monthly dollar amount of each voucher shall be the department-approved  
12 monthly rent of the unit less the monthly amount paid for rent by the household, provided that

13 the department may adjust household rent for those paying separately for utilities. Each  
14 household holding a voucher shall pay at least 30 percent, but not more than 40 per cent, of its  
15 income as rent. The department shall take into consideration the current fair market rent as  
16 determined by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development when determining the  
17 monthly dollar amount of each voucher.

18 (d) The department shall promulgate regulations and guidance to implement this section.

19 (e) The department shall report to the house and senate committees on ways and means  
20 and joint committee on housing annually on the utilization of rental vouchers in each fiscal year  
21 under this program. The report shall include, but not be limited to, the number and average value  
22 of rental vouchers currently distributed in the commonwealth, in each county and in each  
23 municipality. The report shall comply with state and federal privacy standards.