

SENATE No. 725

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 relative to interagency efforts to reduce and prevent homelessness.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	
<i>Linda Dorcena Forry</i>	<i>First Suffolk</i>	
<i>Sal N. DiDomenico</i>	<i>Middlesex and Suffolk</i>	
<i>James B. Eldridge</i>	<i>Middlesex and Worcester</i>	
<i>Barbara A. L'Italien</i>	<i>Second Essex and Middlesex</i>	<i>2/1/2017</i>
<i>Jack Lewis</i>	<i>7th Middlesex</i>	<i>2/2/2017</i>
<i>Daniel Cullinane</i>	<i>12th Suffolk</i>	<i>2/3/2017</i>
<i>Marjorie C. Decker</i>	<i>25th Middlesex</i>	<i>2/3/2017</i>
<i>Cindy F. Friedman</i>	<i>Fourth Middlesex</i>	<i>10/2/2017</i>

SENATE No. 725

By Ms. Forry, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 725) of Linda Dorcena Forry, Barbara A. L'Italien, Jack Lewis, Daniel Cullinane and other members of the General Court for legislation relative to interagency efforts to reduce and prevent homelessness. Housing.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

An Act relative to interagency efforts to reduce and prevent homelessness.

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. The executive office of housing and economic development, the executive
2 office of health and human services, the executive office of labor and workforce development,
3 the executive office of education, and the office of administration and finance shall develop and
4 execute a memorandum of understanding to be known as the housing stability and economic
5 mobility memorandum of understanding. The memorandum of understanding shall establish
6 monthly meetings of the secretaries of each executive office and include a report within 6
7 months of the filing of the memorandum of understanding, and every sixth month following,
8 with the following information: the total number of housing units affordable to extremely low
9 income households needed in the Commonwealth and the net increase of units towards that
10 benchmark; programs administered through all state agencies that serve households below 30%
11 of the area median income; the total dollar amount administered by each agency relative to
12 homelessness prevention, services and activities; programs that can be supplemented with federal
13 funding; differences and gaps in program eligibility between identified programs and strategies

14 for ensuring families receive and maintain services and benefits for which they are eligible;
15 caseload, demographic, and utilization data for relative programs; and a plan with set timelines
16 for coordination across agencies to provide, subject to appropriation, access to programs,
17 services, and benefits for households with incomes below 30% of the area median income and
18 recommendations for legislative and regulatory changes to implement the plan.

19

20 The memorandum of understanding shall include the creation of cross-agency teams of
21 senior, managerial, and front-line staff of each department for the purposes of, but not limited to:
22 training, developing interagency protocols, policy reforms, minimizing service gaps and
23 duplication or services, cross agency cost analysis, and developing coordinated systems of care.

24 The memorandum of understanding shall include a mechanism for ongoing stakeholder
25 involvement, including consumers, service providers, and advocates.

26 The memorandum of understanding and reports shall be filed with the governor, the
27 lieutenant governor, the joint committee on housing, the joint committee on children, families,
28 and persons with disabilities, the joint committee on labor and workforce development, the joint
29 committee on education, and the house and senate committees on ways and means within nine
30 months of the passage of this bill.

31 The memorandum shall facilitate coordination in the delivery of services to households
32 with incomes below 30% of the area median income to support housing stability and economic
33 mobility.