

# HOUSE . . . . . No. 4466

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## The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, February 27, 2020.

The committee on Revenue, to whom were referred the petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 1783) of Bruce E. Tarr and Patrick M. O'Connor for legislation relative to the creation of a family caregiver tax credit, the petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 2536) of David Paul Linsky and others relative to establishing a family caregiver tax credit, and the petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 2608) of David M. Rogers and others for legislation to establish the family caregiver tax credit, reports recommending that the accompanying bill (House, No. 4466) ought to pass.

For the committee,

MARK J. CUSACK.

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 4466**

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**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

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**In the One Hundred and Ninety-First General Court  
(2019-2020)**  
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An Act to establish the family caregiver tax credit.

*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 6 of chapter 62 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2018  
2 Official Edition, is hereby amended by inserting after subsection (v) the following new  
3 subsection:-

4           (w)(1) As used in this subsection, the following words shall have the following meanings  
5 unless the context clearly requires otherwise:

6           "Activities of daily living", Everyday functions and activities, which individuals usually  
7 do without help including, but not limited to, bathing, continence, dressing, eating, toileting and  
8 transferring.

9           "Eligible family member", an individual who (1) is at least eighteen years of age during a  
10 taxable year, (2) requires assistance with at least one activity of daily living, and (3) qualifies as  
11 a dependent, spouse, parent or other relation by blood or marriage, including an in-law,  
12 grandparent, grandchild, step-parent, aunt, uncle, niece, or nephew of the family caregiver.

13 "Evaluation year", the year in which an evaluation of the tax credit is to be complete.  
14 The evaluation year shall be every 5 years after the effective date of this subsection.

15 "Family Caregiver", an individual who is a resident taxpayer for the taxable year and had  
16 eligible expenditures, as described in paragraph (3) of this subsection, with respect to 1 or more  
17 eligible family members during the taxable year. In the case of a joint return, the term includes  
18 the individual and the individual's spouse. The family caregiver claiming the credit must have a  
19 Massachusetts adjusted gross income of less than \$75,000 for an individual and \$150,000 for a  
20 couple and incur uncompensated expenses directly related to the care of an eligible care  
21 recipient.

22 (2) A taxpayer who is a family caregiver is eligible to receive for a taxable year is equal  
23 to a refundable credit against the taxes imposed by this chapter. The credit shall be equal to 100  
24 per cent of the eligible expenditures incurred by the taxpayer during the taxable year, with a  
25 maximum allowable credit of \$1,500.

26 (2) Expenditures eligible to be claimed for the tax credit include the costs associated  
27 with:

28 (i) the improvement or alteration to the family caregiver's primary residence to permit  
29 eligible family member to remain mobile, safe, and independent;

30 (ii) the purchase or lease of equipment that is necessary to assist an eligible family  
31 member in carrying out one or more activities of daily living; and

32 (iii) other goods, services, or supports that assist the family caregiver in providing care to  
33 an eligible family member, such as expenditures related to hiring a home care aide or personal

34 care attendant, respite care, adult day health, transportation, legal and financial services and  
35 assistive technology.

36 (4) No taxpayer shall be entitled to claim a tax credit under this subsection for the same  
37 eligible expenditures claimed by another taxpayer. The total amount of tax credits claimed by  
38 family caregivers shall not exceed \$1,500 for the same eligible family member. If two or more  
39 family caregivers claim tax credits for the same eligible family member, the total of which  
40 exceeds \$1,500, the total amount of the credit allowed shall be allocated in amounts  
41 proportionate to each eligible taxpayer's share of the total amount of the eligible expenditures for  
42 the eligible family member.

43 (5) A taxpayer may not claim a tax credit under this section for expenses incurred in  
44 carrying out general household maintenance activities, including painting, plumbing, electrical  
45 repairs or exterior maintenance, and must be directly related to assisting the family caregiver in  
46 providing care to an eligible family member.

47 (6) The commissioner of the department of revenue shall promulgate rules and  
48 regulations relative to the administration and enforcement of this subsection.

49 (7) The commissioner shall annually, not later than September 1, file a report with the  
50 house and senate committees on ways and means, the chairs of the joint committee on revenue  
51 and the chairs of the joint committee on elder affairs identifying, by community, the total amount  
52 of tax credits claimed and the total number of tax filers who received the tax credit for the  
53 preceding fiscal year.

54 (8) On or before May 31 of the year before the evaluation year, there shall be established  
55 a committee entitled the Caregiver Tax Credit Evaluation Committee to conduct a review of the  
56 tax credit.

57 The committee shall be comprised of 7 members: 2 of whom shall be appointed by the  
58 secretary of the executive office of health and human services; 2 of whom shall be appointed by  
59 the secretary of the executive office of elder affairs; 1 of whom shall be appointed by the  
60 secretary of the executive office for administration and finance; 1 of whom shall be appointed by  
61 the president of the senate; and 1 of whom shall be appointed by the speaker of the house of  
62 representatives.

63 The committee shall: (1) examine the purpose for which the tax credit was established;  
64 (2) determine whether the original intent of the tax credit is still appropriate; (3) examine  
65 whether the tax credit is meeting its objectives; (4) examine whether the purposes of the tax  
66 credit could be more efficiently and effectively carried out through alternative methods; and (5)  
67 calculate the costs of providing the tax credit, including the administrative cost and lost revenues  
68 to the commonwealth.

69 The committee shall file a report of its findings with the senate and house clerks and with  
70 the governor, which shall include a recommendation as to whether the tax credit should be  
71 continued, with or without changes, or be terminated. The report shall be accompanied by any  
72 legislation that is needed to accomplish the recommendations of the report. The report shall be  
73 filed no later than December 31 of the evaluation year.

74 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon its passage and apply to taxable years  
75 beginning on or after January 1 next following the date of enactment.