

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Aaron Vega

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 economic mobility for families with low-income.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	DATE ADDED:
Aaron Vega	5th Hampden	1/17/2019
Natalie M. Blais	1st Franklin	2/1/2019
Peter Capano	11th Essex	2/1/2019
Daniel R. Carey	2nd Hampshire	1/31/2019
Sonia Chang-Diaz	Second Suffolk	1/30/2019
Joanne M. Comerford	Hampshire, Franklin and Worcester	1/30/2019
Mike Connolly	26th Middlesex	1/31/2019
Daniel R. Cullinane	12th Suffolk	1/30/2019
Julian Cyr	Cape and Islands	2/1/2019
Marjorie C. Decker	25th Middlesex	1/30/2019
Sal N. DiDomenico	Middlesex and Suffolk	2/1/2019
Diana DiZoglio	First Essex	1/31/2019
Mindy Domb	3rd Hampshire	2/1/2019
James B. Eldridge	Middlesex and Worcester	1/29/2019
Nika C. Elugardo	15th Suffolk	2/1/2019
Carlos González	10th Hampden	1/17/2019
Stephan Hay	3rd Worcester	1/23/2019
Natalie M. Higgins	4th Worcester	1/29/2019

Kevin G. Honan	17th Suffolk	2/1/2019
Donald F. Humason, Jr.	Second Hampden and Hampshire	1/30/2019
Daniel J. Hunt	13th Suffolk	1/30/2019
Patrick Joseph Kearney	4th Plymouth	2/1/2019
Mary S. Keefe	15th Worcester	1/31/2019
Kay Khan	11th Middlesex	1/29/2019
David Henry Argosky LeBoeuf	17th Worcester	2/1/2019
Jack Patrick Lewis	7th Middlesex	2/1/2019
Jason M. Lewis	Fifth Middlesex	1/28/2019
Elizabeth A. Malia	11th Suffolk	2/1/2019
Paul W. Mark	2nd Berkshire	2/1/2019
Liz Miranda	5th Suffolk	1/30/2019
Denise Provost	27th Middlesex	1/23/2019
David M. Rogers	24th Middlesex	1/31/2019
Lindsay N. Sabadosa	1st Hampshire	1/31/2019
Bruce E. Tarr	First Essex and Middlesex	1/31/2019
José F. Tosado	9th Hampden	1/17/2019
Andres X. Vargas	3rd Essex	1/31/2019
Tommy Vitolo	15th Norfolk	1/29/2019
Susannah M. Whipps	2nd Franklin	2/1/2019
Bud L. Williams	11th Hampden	1/18/2019

By Mr. Vega of Holyoke, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 173) of Aaron Vega and others relative to economic mobility for families with low-income. Children, Families and Persons with Disabilities.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the One Hundred and Ninety-First General Court (2019-2020)

An Act relative to economic mobility for families with low-income.

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 administration and finance in conjunction with the 2 executive office of health and human services, the executive office of housing and economic 3 development, the executive office of labor and workforce development and the executive office 4 of education shall conduct and report an impact study on the impacts of minimum wage increase 5 as directed in the chapter 121 of the acts of 2018 on households with low incomes who would 6 lose the eligibility of benefits due to the wage increase with decline in net resources and face 7 cliff effects. The impact study shall also recommend directives to determine ways to adjust 8 assistance in response to changes in income, including but not limited to automatic adjustments 9 tied to minimum wage increases and options for increasing utilization of the earned income tax 10 credit so as to prevent families from facing cliff effects. The report shall be submitted to the 11 clerks of the house and the senate, the house and senate committees on ways and means and the 12 interagency council on housing and homelessness no later than January 1, 2020.

13 Section 2: The executive office of health and human services, executive office of housing 14 and economic development, executive office of labor and workforce development and executive 15 office of education shall examine economic mobility programs, recommend criteria for 16 evaluation and create a mechanism for evaluating economic mobility programs for program 17 outcomes including changes in earned income, education and state and federally funded services 18 and the feedback of participants and those not enrolled in programs, for the purpose of producing 19 a report. The report shall recommend directives for each executive office to expand outreach to 20 eligible non-participants to boost enrollment. The report shall outline the outcomes for economic 21 mobility and financial stability programs for families and individuals with extremely low 22 incomes, as defined by the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development. The 23 report shall be submitted to the clerks of the house and the senate, the house and senate 24 committees on ways and means and the interagency council on housing and homelessness no 25 later than January 1, 2020.

Section 3: (a) The executive office of health and human services, executive office of housing and economic development, executive office of labor and workforce development and executive office of education shall file an annual report for the purposes of gaining a deeper understanding of housing instability faced by families in order to efficiently predict and better direct homelessness prevention and housing resources. The report shall include the following metrics:

(i) The number of client households that have been identified as homeless and at risk of
 homelessness; The numbers of households receiving Emergency Assistance Shelter also
 receiving benefits and services from the following: Department of Transitional Assistance
 (DTA) – Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, DTA – Transitional Aid for Families with

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36 Dependent Children; Workforce Development Programs; Department of Children and Families, 37 Department of Public Health - Early Intervention Services, MassHealth; income sources for 38 families in shelter; MassHealth data on housing instability screening for patients; 39 (ii) The stability of households that have received assistance from the HomeBASE 40 program, including, the numbers of households that were evicted, the numbers that returned to 41 shelter, number of households with DCF involvement, numbers with incomes below 150% of the 42 Federal Poverty Level. The Department shall coordinate with programs under the Executive 43 Office of Health and Human Services on matching data sets for the purposes of this report; 44 (iii) The number of contracted slots for homeless children and the current utilization, the 45 number of childcare vouchers issued to homelessness households (to be submitted by Early 46 Education and Care); and 47 (iv) The cross agency working groups and committees relative to homelessness, that are 48 currently active at the state agencies, will submit their reports and finding on housing stability 49 and economic mobility. 50 (b) The report shall be submitted to the clerks of the house and the senate, the house and 51 senate committees on ways and means and the interagency council on housing and homelessness 52 no later than January 1 of each year 53 Section 4. (a) the executive office of health and human services, executive office of 54 housing and economic development, executive office of labor and workforce development and 55 the executive office of education shall establish a telephone hotline for citizens to have the ability to get advice on program benefits and intersectionality with other programs. 56

- (b) There shall be a benefits calculator for use by the public through a website withinstructions for the public.
- (c) Information about the assistance program including the phone number shall be posted
 on each office's website. Each executive office shall provide training for: calculating benefits
 using a benefits calculator in order to optimize benefits to avoid cliff effects.