

SENATE No. 345

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

James T. Welch

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 creating a disproportionate share childcare provider fund.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	
<i>James T. Welch</i>	<i>Hampden</i>	
<i>Eric P. Lesser</i>	<i>First Hampden and Hampshire</i>	<i>4/9/2019</i>

SENATE No. 345

By Mr. Welch, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 345) of James T. Welch for legislation to create a disproportionate share childcare provider fund. Education.

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION
SEE SENATE, NO. 333 OF 2017-2018.]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

An Act creating a disproportionate share childcare provider fund.

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. Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary there shall be
2 established under the Department of Early Education and Care a new fund to be known as the
3 “Disproportionate Share Childcare Provider Fund”. This fund shall provide supplemental
4 funding to certain childcare provider agencies which care for a disproportionate number of high
5 risk children and which meet the criteria set forth in SECTION 3 of this act.

6 SECTION 2. On an annual basis not less than fifty percent of licensing fees collected by
7 the Department of Early Education and Care shall be deposited into the Disproportionate Share
8 Childcare Provider Fund established in SECTION 1 of this act.

9 SECTION 3. Childcare provider agencies which meet the following criteria shall be
10 eligible for supplemental funding from the Disproportionate Childcare Provider Fund:

I.) Be an agency which offers center based, family and after school early education and care programs with a licensed capacity of over 150; and

II.) Have at least 95% of their capacity serving children whose families live at or below the federal poverty level; and

III.) Not be a provider of HeadStart or eligible for federal funding as a Community Anti-Poverty Agency; and

IV.) Receive not less than 90% of agency early education and care revenue from the Department of Early Education and Care; and

V.) Operate in a designated “gateway municipality” as defined by Section 3A of Chapter 23A of the General Laws.

SECTION 4. Licensed childcare provider agencies which meet the criteria set forth in SECTION 3 of this act shall be entitled to an annual payment from the Disproportionate Childcare Provider Fund. Payment to eligible agencies shall be made in a manner prescribed by the Commissioner of Early Education and Care. All funds contained in the account shall be expended to eligible licensed childcare provider agencies bi-annually in proportion to the licensed capacity of the eligible agency.

SECTION 5. This act shall take effect upon its passage.