

HOUSE No. 4677

Section 38 contained in the engrossed Bill making appropriations for the fiscal year 2022 to provide for supplementing certain existing appropriations and for certain other activities and projects (see House, No. 4578, amended), which had been returned by His Excellency the Governor with recommendation of amendment (for message see House, No. 4678). April 1, 2022.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the One Hundred and Ninety-Second General Court
(2021-2022)

An Act requiring the Department of Public Health to provide for early intervention providers to support increased salaries, wages and benefits for early intervention clinicians and support staff.

Whereas, The deferred operation of this act would tend to defeat its purpose, which is to forthwith to require the Department of Public Health to provide for early intervention providers to support increased salaries, wages and benefits for early intervention clinicians and support staff, therefore it is hereby declared to be an emergency law, necessary for the immediate preservation of the public convenience.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1 Item 4513-1020 of section 2 of chapter 24 of the acts of 2021 is hereby amended by
2 adding the following words; provided further, that not less than \$8,000,000 shall be expended
3 from this item for early intervention staffing recovery payments to address the staffing crisis and
4 restore early intervention staffing and service hours through hiring, rehiring and retention of
5 clinical and support staff across the early intervention system; provided further, that such funds
6 shall be used to support increased salaries, wages and benefits for early intervention clinicians
7 and support staff; provided further, that such funds may be used to cover supervision, training,

8 nonbillable time and other onboarding costs directly associated with the hiring of new early
9 intervention clinicians and support staff; provided further, that such staffing recovery payments
10 shall be distributed by the department as payment vouchers to all vendors of certified early
11 intervention programs; provided further, that such payments shall be made on a proportional
12 basis, calculated using the most recent early intervention child counts of the department;
13 provided further, that such funds shall be distributed not later than May 1, 2022; and provided
14 further, that not later than June 30, 2022, the department shall submit a report to the executive
15 office for administration and finance and the house and senate committees on ways and means
16 detailing the distribution of the staffing recovery payments.