

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 3655**

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**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

PRESENTED BY:

*Denise C. Garlick*

*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 to support military personnel and families.**

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	DATE ADDED:
<i>Denise C. Garlick</i>	<i>13th Norfolk</i>	<i>2/18/2021</i>
<i>Steven G. Xiarhos</i>	<i>5th Barnstable</i>	<i>2/24/2021</i>
<i>Timothy R. Whelan</i>	<i>1st Barnstable</i>	<i>2/24/2021</i>
<i>Kip A. Diggs</i>	<i>2nd Barnstable</i>	<i>2/24/2021</i>
<i>Mathew J. Muratore</i>	<i>1st Plymouth</i>	<i>3/17/2021</i>

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 3655**

By Ms. Garlick of Needham, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 3655) of Denise C. Garlick and others for legislation to establish the Massachusetts military family relief fund. Veterans and Federal Affairs.

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

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

An Act to support military personnel and families.

*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 35CC of Chapter 10 of the General Laws is amended by striking  
2 said section and inserting in place thereof the following: -

3 SECTION 35CC. There shall be an expendable trust, to be known as the Massachusetts  
4 Military Family Relief Fund, the purpose of which is to help members of the Massachusetts  
5 National Guard and Massachusetts residents who are members of the reserves of the armed  
6 forces of the United States and who were called to active duty after September 11, 2001, and  
7 their families, to defray the costs of food, housing, utilities, medical services, and other expenses.  
8 The fund shall consist of revenues received by the commonwealth under the provisions of  
9 section 6K of chapter 62, from public and private sources as gifts, grants, and donations to  
10 further the purposes of the fund. Revenues credited to the fund under this section shall remain in  
11 the fund, not subject to appropriation, for application to those purposes. The state treasurer shall  
12 not deposit the revenues in, or transfer the revenues to, the General Fund or any other fund other

13 than the Massachusetts Military Family Relief Fund. The state treasurer shall deposit monies in  
14 the fund in accordance with sections 34 and 34A of chapter 29 in such manner as will secure the  
15 highest interest rate available consistent with safety of the fund and with the requirement that all  
16 amounts on deposit be available for immediate withdrawal at any time. Revenues received for  
17 the Military Family Relief Fund shall be directly paid to qualified organizations as established by  
18 Section 13 of this Act by the military division through the established expendable trust.

19 SECTION 2. Chapter 130 of the Acts of 2005 is hereby amended by striking out section  
20 13 through section 15, inclusive, and inserting in place thereof the following: -

21 SECTION 13. Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, the Secretary  
22 of the Department of Veterans' Services shall, on January 1, 2022 and every even numbered year  
23 thereafter, procure and award the administration of the grant program to qualified non-profit  
24 organizations, hereafter referred to as the awarded organizations, in equal apportionments. Said  
25 awarded organizations shall be principally focused on providing aid to Massachusetts military  
26 service members and their families, and shall be headquartered in the Commonwealth. pro The  
27 military division shall make available the revenues received from the Military Family Relief  
28 Fund after designation by the Secretary of the Department of Veterans' Services, and grants from  
29 the Massachusetts Military Family Relief Fund shall be made to a member or to families of  
30 persons who are members of the Massachusetts National Guard or Massachusetts residents who  
31 are members of the reserves of the armed forces of the United States and who were called to  
32 active duty after September 11, 2001.

33 Said awarded organizations shall promulgate rules and regulations to establish eligibility  
34 requirements for assistance under this section which shall be reviewed by the military division.

35 In developing rules and regulations, said awarded organizations shall consult with the military  
36 division, military support groups, including, but not limited to, the Family Assistance Fund and  
37 family assistance centers.

38 SECTION 14. (a) The awarded organizations shall submit an annual report to the  
39 secretary of the department of Veterans' Services and the house and senate committees on ways  
40 and means detailing:-

41 (1) the expenditure of the funds including the amount of assistance provided from the  
42 fund by branch of service, regular or reserve duty classification, amount of individual assistance  
43 provided, the reason that qualified a member of the military or the member's family for  
44 assistance and the balance remaining within the interest income account for future  
45 disbursements;

46 (2) the name, address, rank and rating, branch of service, deployment location and  
47 amounts of financial assistance provided to each eligible military member and to the member's  
48 family.

49 (b) The information provided pursuant to clause (1) of subsection (a) shall be public  
50 record. The information provided pursuant to paragraph 2 of subsection (a) shall be confidential  
51 and shall be available for inspection only by the secretary of administration and finance and the  
52 general court. Names, addresses and deployment locations shall not be in any report available for  
53 public access. The secretary of administration and finance and the legislators with legal access to  
54 the report shall be required to hold names, addresses and deployment locations confidential.

55 Failure to file said annual reports on a timely basis may result in an immediate  
56 termination of the designation for administration of this fund, in accordance with Section 15 of  
57 this Act.

58 SECTION 15. In the event that the awarded organizations lose their status as a charitable  
59 corporation or ceases to exist, the Secretary of the Department of Veterans' Services shall  
60 identify a suitable charitable organization to administer the grants.