

SENATE No. 275

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Paul R. Feeney

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 licensed care and financial resource information for parents of newborns.

PETITION OF:

NAME:

Paul R. Feeney

DISTRICT/ADDRESS:

Bristol and Norfolk

SENATE No. 275

By Mr. Feeney, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 275) of Paul R. Feeney for legislation relative to licensed care and financial resource information for parents of newborns. Education.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

**In the One Hundred and Ninety-Third General Court
(2023-2024)**

An Act relative to licensed care and financial resource information for parents of newborns.

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

1 Chapter 15D of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after section 2 the
2 following section:-

3 Section 2A. (a) Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, the
4 department, in consultation with the department of public health, shall develop a written early
5 education and care informational pamphlet containing resources for parents of newborns
6 including, but not limited to:

7 (i) information on the short and long-term developmental benefits of quality care and an
8 early education curriculum;

9 (ii) information on the role of the department in licensing providers and facilities,
10 conducting background record checks and the safety distinction between licensed providers and
11 unlicensed care;

12 (iii) information on the availability of child care financial assistance for eligible families;

13 (iv) the contact information for each child care resource and referral agency; and

14 (v) the website for families to access an online directory, searchable by geographic

15 location, of licensed child care programs across the commonwealth.

16 (b) The early education and care informational pamphlet shall be developed and made

17 available by the department for publication, printing and distribution.

18 (c) The information shall be provided to the parents or guardians of all newborn infants in

19 the commonwealth in the birthing hospital, birthing center or in the hospital from which the

20 newborn infant is discharged to home.