

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 290**

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**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

PRESENTED BY:

*Steven Ultrino and Sean Garballey*

*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 allowing certain minors to consent to supportive services.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	DATE ADDED:
<i>Steven Ultrino</i>	<i>33rd Middlesex</i>	<i>1/9/2025</i>
<i>Sean Garballey</i>	<i>23rd Middlesex</i>	<i>1/9/2025</i>
<i>Richard M. Haggerty</i>	<i>30th Middlesex</i>	<i>3/12/2025</i>
<i>Lindsay N. Sabadosa</i>	<i>1st Hampshire</i>	<i>3/12/2025</i>
<i>Michael D. Brady</i>	<i>Second Plymouth and Norfolk</i>	<i>3/12/2025</i>
<i>James B. Eldridge</i>	<i>Middlesex and Worcester</i>	<i>3/12/2025</i>
<i>Antonio F. D. Cabral</i>	<i>13th Bristol</i>	<i>3/12/2025</i>
<i>Christopher Hendricks</i>	<i>11th Bristol</i>	<i>6/10/2025</i>

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By Representatives Ultrino of Malden and Garballey of Arlington, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 290) of Steven Ultrino and Sean Garballey for legislation to authorize unaccompanied homeless youth between the ages of 15 and 18 to consent to supportive services and shelter. Children, Families and Persons with Disabilities.

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**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

**In the One Hundred and Ninety-Fourth General Court  
(2025-2026)**

An Act allowing certain minors to consent to supportive services.

*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. Chapter 6A of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after  
2 Section 16XX the following new section : -

3 Section 16XX. (a) In this chapter the following terms, unless a contrary meaning is  
4 required by the context or is specifically prescribed, shall have the following meanings:

5 “Service Provider” is a public or private nonprofit organization that provides supportive  
6 services to a mature minor experiencing or at risk of experiencing homelessness in need of  
7 supportive services.

8 “Supportive Services” shall mean interventions, services, or resources necessary to assist  
9 a mature minor experiencing or at risk of experiencing homelessness in acquiring or  
10 maintaining: (1) stable housing; (2) permanent connections, including ongoing attachments to  
11 families, communities, schools, and other positive social networks; (3) financial stability; (4)

12 education, employment or income, including high performance in completion of education and  
13 training activities, especially for younger youth, and starting and maintaining adequate and stable  
14 employment, particularly for older youth; or (5) social and emotional wellbeing, including the  
15 development of key competencies, attitudes, and behaviors that equip a young person to succeed  
16 across multiple domains of daily life, including school, work, relationships, and community.

17 “Mature minor experiencing or at risk of experiencing homelessness” or “mature minor”  
18 shall be a minor who (1) is 15 years of age or older; (2) is not in the physical custody of a parent  
19 or legal guardian; (3) lacks a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence as defined in  
20 section 16W, chapter 6A; or (3) whose status or circumstances indicate a significant danger of  
21 experiencing homelessness in the near future. The minor shall also be able to understand the  
22 circumstances and implications of the situation in which they are involved and is able to  
23 participate in the decision making process without excessive anxiety or fear.

24 (b) A mature minor experiencing or at risk of experiencing homelessness in need of  
25 supportive services may consent to such services if the service provider reasonably believes that:  
26 (1) the mature minor understands the significant benefits, responsibilities, risks, and limits of the  
27 services and can communicate an informed consent; (2) the mature minor understands the  
28 requirements and rules of receiving the services; and (3) the services are necessary to ensure the  
29 mature minor’s safety and wellbeing.

30 (c) A mature minor experiencing or at risk of experiencing homelessness in need of  
31 supportive services who is a parent may consent to supportive services for their child.

32 (d) Any provider receiving funding from the Executive Office of Health and Human  
33 Services' Homeless Youth Services Division may provide services to a mature minor after they  
34 obtain informed and written consent from the mature minor.

35 (e) The informed written consent from the mature minor shall state their: (1) age; (2)  
36 guardianship status, if known; and (3) current living situation.

37 (f) A service provider may not provide supportive services to a mature minor if the  
38 service provider has knowledge that the mature minor: (1) knowingly provided false information  
39 in the written consent required under subsection (e) of this section; or (2) does not meet the  
40 definition of mature minor in need of supportive services under subsection (a) and (b) of this  
41 section.

42 (g) Any provider who renders supportive services to a mature minor in need of supportive  
43 services in compliance with this section shall be immune from any civil or criminal liability,  
44 unless such liability arises from the provider's gross negligence or willful or wanton acts or  
45 omissions.

46 (h) The Office of Children, Youth, and Families shall adopt regulations to carry out this  
47 section.