

HOUSE No.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Christine P. Barber

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 promoting housing stability for families by strengthening the HomeBASE program.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	DATE ADDED:
<i>Christine P. Barber</i>	<i>34th Middlesex</i>	<i>1/14/2025</i>

HOUSE No.

[Pin Slip]

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION
SEE HOUSE, NO. 1297 OF 2023-2024.]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

An Act promoting housing stability for families by strengthening the HomeBASE program.

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 30 of chapter 23B of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2022 Official Edition,
2 is hereby amended by inserting after subsection A, paragraph (e) the following:-

3 (f) for re-housing, short-term housing transition program benefits, which shall be
4 available initially for 24 months and then in 12-month, renewable allotments, to eligible families.

5 The executive office shall provide further allotments of household assistance from the
6 Massachusetts short-term housing transition program to families that received household
7 assistance in a prior period to prevent eviction from existing housing or to relocate to another
8 housing situation in cases where a.) the family complied with their rehousing plan during the
9 prior period of assistance and b.) continues to include a child under the age of 21 or a pregnant
10 person.

11 The executive office shall not impose income eligibility restrictions on families once they
12 are enrolled in the program.

13 The executive office shall not require families to be evicted from their existing housing or
14 to otherwise establish that they fall into one of the four categories of affirmative eligibility for
15 emergency assistance shelter currently listed in item 7004-0101.

16 Families in summary process commenced for a reason determined by the executive office
17 to be a no fault or excused fault reason for eviction can apply and be found eligible for short-
18 term transition program benefits in order to prevent eviction from existing housing or permit the
19 family to relocate to another housing situation. The executive office shall allow families to apply
20 and be found eligible for this short-term housing benefit after the summons and complaint is
21 filed in court. Families shall be found eligible for short-term housing transition benefits if, but
22 for feasible alternative housing, they otherwise meet the eligibility requirements for family
23 shelter.

24 The executive office shall provide household assistance in an amount up to \$50,000 in
25 the first 24-month period, or a higher cap as established in line item 7004-0108, and up to
26 \$25,000, or higher cap as established in line item 7004-0108, in subsequent 12-month periods to
27 eligible families.

28 The executive office shall allow families to combine and maximize benefits under the
29 Massachusetts short-term housing transition program and residential assistance for families in
30 transition funds from line item 7004-9316 if families are eligible for both programs, such funds
31 are needed to promote housing stability, and the assistance is non-duplicative.