

HOUSE No.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Marjorie C. Decker and Mindy Domb

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 expanding access to hygiene products.

PETITION OF:

| NAME: | DISTRICT/ADDRESS: | DATE ADDED: |
|---------------------------|-----------------------|------------------|
| <i>Marjorie C. Decker</i> | <i>25th Middlesex</i> | <i>1/16/2025</i> |

HOUSE No.

[Pin Slip]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

An Act expanding access to hygiene products.

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 111I of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2022 Official
2 Edition, is hereby amended by inserting after section 7 the following section;-

3 Section 8. (a) For the purposes of this section, the following words shall have the
4 following meanings unless the context clearly requires otherwise:

5 “Hygiene insecurity”, a person or family's inability to afford the most basic hygiene
6 products.

7 “Hygiene product”, products that include, but are not limited to, deodorant, diapers,
8 feminine products, soap, shampoo, toothbrushes, and toothpaste.

9 (b) The department, in partnership with the department of transitional assistance, shall
10 establish a task force to study the feasibility of including hygiene products under the WIC
11 program. The task force shall consist of: the undersecretary of human services of the executive
12 office of health and human services or a designee, who shall serve as chair; the secretary of the

13 executive office of administration and finance or a designee; the commissioner of the department
14 or a designee; the commissioner of the department of transitional assistance or a designee; the
15 director of the WIC program; 1 member appointed by Hope And Comfort Inc.; 1 member
16 appointed by Community Action Pioneer Valley, Inc.; 1 member appointed by Neighbors In
17 Need, Inc.; 1 member appointed by the Mass National Organization For Women Foundation,
18 Inc.; and no less than three participants in the WIC program from geographically diverse regions
19 of the commonwealth.

20 (c) The task force shall file a report no later than January 1, 2027 with the clerks of the
21 senate and the house of representatives, the joint committee on children, families and persons
22 with disabilities, the joint committee on public health, and the senate and house committees on
23 ways and means. The report shall include, but not be limited to: (i) an analysis of hygiene
24 insecurity in the commonwealth; (ii) a survey of existing public programs and services that
25 address hygiene insecurity, (iii) recommendations to address hygiene insecurity, and (iv) the
26 feasibility of adopting the purchase of hygiene products as allowable activities under the WIC
27 program.

28 (d) The task force shall accept public comment to inform the report outlined in subsection
29 (c).