

HOUSE No.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Kate Hogan, (BY REQUEST)

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 survivor sustainability and financial independence.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	DATE ADDED:
<i>Amy Farrell</i>	<i>443 Main Street, Bolton</i>	<i>3/4/2026</i>

HOUSE No.

[Pin Slip]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

An Act relative to survivor sustainability and financial independence.

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. Statutory Subtraction Rule (Amendment to M.G.L. c. 151B, §4)

2 It shall be a per se violation of Chapter 151B for any housing provider—including private
3 developments, Chapter 40B projects, and tax-credit properties—to apply a rent-to-income ratio
4 to the total rent of a subsidy recipient. The subsidy MUST be subtracted from the rent before
5 testing income. Current verified funds (HomeBASE/RAFT) shall be the sole metric for financial
6 eligibility. "Speculative sustainability" or "income longevity" shall not be used as a basis for
7 rejection.

8 SECTION 2. Mandatory Acceptance at Regulated Complexes

9 Any housing development receiving state or local tax credits, or utilizing government
10 housing navigation platforms, is prohibited from rejecting a Priority 4C survivor based on the
11 time-limited nature of their subsidy. These complexes provide the corporate oversight and
12 security required for survivor safety and must remain accessible regardless of current
13 employment status.

14 SECTION 3. The Financial Abuse & "Ghost Metric" Clause

15 Rent contribution calculations for survivors of coercive control shall be based on "Liquid
16 Available Assets" rather than gross income. Any funds practically controlled by an abuser or
17 required to mitigate coercion-based debt shall be excluded from the calculation.

18 SECTION 4. Neuro-Inclusive Resident Continuity & School Protection

19 Survivors have a statutory right to remain in their resident school systems to prevent the
20 traumatic uprooting of children. The Commonwealth shall adjust HomeBASE stipends to match
21 the Fair Market Rent (FMR) of the survivor's home municipality. The arbitrary 24-month stipend
22 cliff shall be replaced by flexible, non-linear stabilization timelines for neurodivergent (AuDHD)
23 and disabled households.

24 SECTION 5. Anti-Discouragement Mandate

25 No state-contracted stabilization agent or diversion specialist shall discourage an
26 applicant from pursuing housing for which they possess verified funds, nor shall they suggest a
27 waiver of rights under M.G.L. c. 151B based on personal opinions regarding "long-term
28 affordability."