

SENATE No.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Liz Miranda

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 providing for a guaranteed cash stipend for young adults transitioning out of foster care.

PETITION OF:

NAME:

Liz Miranda

DISTRICT/ADDRESS:

Second Suffolk

SENATE No.

[Pin Slip]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

An Act providing for a guaranteed cash stipend for young adults transitioning out of foster care.

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 119 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2022 Official Edition, is hereby
2 amended by inserting after section 23C the following section:-

3 Section 23D. (a) The department shall, subject to appropriation, provide a cash stipend of
4 \$1,000 per month for 5 years to any individual who was formerly under the custody, care or
5 responsibility of the department but has transitioned from the custody, care or responsibility of
6 the department any time between the ages of 18 and 23. Should such an individual at any time
7 return to the custody, care, or responsibility of the department, that individual’s monthly stipend
8 will be put on hold until such time as the individual again transitions from the custody, care or
9 responsibility of the department; provided, however, that no individual is eligible for more than
10 60 total monthly payments of this stipend during the individual’s lifetime.

11 (b) Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, this stipend shall not be
12 considered income for purposes of determining eligibility for any other benefit provided by the
13 Commonwealth.

14 (c) The department shall inform all eligible foster care youth, in person and by writing,
15 and their counsel as appointed under section 29 of chapter 119, of the availability of this cash
16 stipend within 30 days of the youth attaining the age of 17 years and 6 months. The department
17 shall provide appropriate case management to support eligible youth within the department's
18 custody, care, or responsibility in applying for this cash stipend and other support needed to
19 assist the youth in making the transition from foster care to a successful adulthood, including
20 setting up a personal bank account where this cash stipend may be deposited, making the youth
21 aware of other state benefits for which the youth may be eligible, and connecting youth to
22 financial literacy education or training.

23 (d) The department shall not terminate or suspend the payment of this cash stipend for
24 any reason other than the return of the individual to the custody, care, or responsibility of the
25 department.

26 (e) The department shall take steps to notify eligible former foster care youth of the
27 existence and availability of this cash stipend and shall publish data as to the number of eligible
28 young adults receiving this cash stipend.