

SENATE No.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Sal N. DiDomenico

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 lifting kids out of deep poverty.

PETITION OF:

NAME:

Sal N. DiDomenico

DISTRICT/ADDRESS:

Middlesex and Suffolk

SENATE No.

[Pin Slip]

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION
SEE SENATE, NO. 75 OF 2023-2024.]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

An Act lifting kids out of deep poverty.

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. Section 2 of chapter 118 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2022
2 Official Edition, is hereby amended by striking the fourth paragraph and inserting in place
3 thereof the following new paragraph:- "Notwithstanding any general or special law to the
4 contrary, the payment standards for monthly benefits for the program not including the rental
5 allowance shall be increased effective July first of each year beginning with July 1, 2025 by 20
6 percent above the payment standard in effect in the previous fiscal year until the payment
7 standard for the household size equals 50 percent of the federal poverty level for the household
8 size; provided further, that once the payment standard for the household size equals 50 percent of
9 the federal poverty level for the household size, the payment standard shall be increased effective
10 July first of each year in order that the payment standard shall be no less than 50% of the poverty
11 level for the household size as determined by the federal Department of Health and Human

12 Services; provided further, that the need standard and the payment amounts shall be further
13 increased by the amount of a clothing allowance in the month for which it is paid and by the
14 rental allowance for households incurring a rent or mortgage expense and not residing in public
15 or subsidized housing."

16 SECTION 2. Section 1 of chapter 117A of the General Laws is hereby amended by
17 inserting after the first paragraph the following new paragraph:- "Notwithstanding any general or
18 special law to the contrary, the payment standards for monthly benefits for the program shall be
19 increased effective July first of each year beginning with July 1, 2025 by 20 percent above the
20 payment standard in effect in the previous fiscal year until the payment standard for the
21 household size equals 50 percent of the federal poverty level for the household size; provided
22 further, that once the payment standard for the household size equals 50 percent of the federal
23 poverty level for the household size, the payment standard shall be increased effective July first
24 of each year in order that the payment standard shall be no less than 50 percent of the poverty
25 level for the household size as determined by the federal Department of Health and Human
26 Services".