

SENATE No.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Adam Gomez

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 allowing certain minors to consent to supportive services.

PETITION OF:

NAME:

Adam Gomez

DISTRICT/ADDRESS:

Hampden

SENATE No.

[Pin Slip]

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION
SEE SENATE, NO. 94 OF 2023-2024.]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

An Act allowing certain minors to consent to supportive services.

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 6A of the General Laws, is hereby amended by inserting after Section 16XX the
2 following new section:-

3 Section 16XX: (a) In this chapter the following terms, unless a contrary meaning is
4 required by the context or is specifically prescribed, shall have the following meanings: “Service
5 Provider” is a public or private nonprofit organization that provides supportive services to a
6 mature minor experiencing or at risk of experiencing homelessness in need of supportive
7 services

8 “Supportive Services” shall mean interventions, services, or resources necessary to assist
9 a mature minor experiencing or at risk of experiencing homelessness in acquiring or maintaining:

- 10 (i) stable housing; (ii) permanent connections, including ongoing attachments to families,
11 communities, schools, and other positive social networks; (iii) financial stability; (iv) education,

12 employment or income, including high performance in completion of education and training
13 activities, especially for younger youth, and starting and maintaining adequate and stable
14 employment, particularly for older youth; or (v) social and emotional wellbeing, including the
15 development of key competencies, attitudes, and behaviors that equip a young person to succeed
16 across multiple domains of daily life, including school, work, relationships, and community.

17 “Mature minor experiencing or at risk of experiencing homelessness” or “mature minor”
18 shall be a minor who (1) is 15 years of age or older; (2) is not in the physical custody of a parent
19 or legal guardian; (3) lacks a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence as defined in
20 section 16W, chapter 6A; or (3) whose status or circumstances indicate a significant danger of
21 experiencing homelessness in the near future. The minor shall also be able to understand the
22 circumstances and implications of the situation in which they are involved and is able to
23 participate in the decision making process without excessive anxiety or fear.

24 (b) A mature minor experiencing or at risk of experiencing homelessness in need of
25 supportive services may consent to such services if the service provider reasonably believes that:
26 (i) the mature minor understands the significant benefits, responsibilities, risks, and limits of the
27 shelter and service and can communicate an informed consent; (ii) the mature minor understands
28 the requirements and rules of the shelter and services; and (iii) the shelter and services are
29 necessary to ensure the mature minor’s safety and wellbeing.

30 (c) A mature minor experiencing or at risk of experiencing homelessness in need of
31 supportive services who is a parent may consent to supportive services and for their child.

32 (d) Any provider receiving funding from the Executive Office of Health and Human
33 Services’ Homeless Youth Services Division may provide services to a mature minor after they

34 obtain informed and written consent from the mature minor. (e) The informed written consent
35 from the mature minor in need of services shall state the their: (i) age; (ii) guardianship status, if
36 known; and (iii) living situation.

37 (f) A service provider may not provide supportive services or shelter to a minor if the
38 service provider has knowledge that the mature minor: (i) knowingly provided false information
39 in the written consent required under subsection (c)(1); or (ii) does not meet the definition of an
40 mature minor in need of supportive services under subsection (a) and (b) of this section.

41 (g) Any provider who renders supportive services to a mature minor in need of supportive
42 services in compliance with this section shall be immune from any civil or criminal liability,
43 unless such liability arises from the provider's gross negligence or willful or wanton acts or
44 omissions.

45 (h) The Office of Children, Youth, and Families shall adopt regulations to carry out this
46 section.