

COMMITTEE ON HOUSING ~ BILL SUMMARY

Bill Number: H. 1496/H.1566

Name: An Act relative to residential assistance for families in transition (RAFT)

Sponsor(s): Representative Daniel Donahue (16th Worcester)/Representative Rep. Priscilla Sousa (6th Middlesex)

Hearing Date: July 23, 2025

Prior History: Refile; 2023 - 2024: Reported favorably by the Joint Committee on Housing

Reporting Deadline: September 21, 2025

Similar Matters:

CURRENT LAW: *M.G.L. c. 23B — Department of Housing and Community Development*

PROPOSED CHANGE(S):

This bill would add a new Section 31a requiring EOHLIC to administer the residential assistance for families in transition homeless prevention program (RAFT). This program does not require a household to be subject to summary process under chapter 239 or shut-off notice from a utility company. Risk of eviction, foreclosure or utility shutoff may be determined by certification by the applicant household, landlord, or utility company.

EOHLIC is also required to issue an annual report on the program including referral source for each household, applications requested, completed and approved, number rejected and reasons, the household income and demographic for each household by zip code and cumulatively, monthly rent of each household and amount of each program payment for arrearage, and the housing status of each household at 6, 12, and 24- months after receipt of services.

In addition, the bill amends Chapter 66 of the MGL adding a Section 22 which makes documents pertaining to this program public records except for certain private identifying information.