

HOUSE 58:

AN ACT MAKING APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2025 TO PROVIDE FOR SUPPLEMENTING CERTAIN EXISTING APPROPRIATIONS AND FOR CERTAIN OTHER ACTIVITIES AND PROJECTS

(summary reflects text as amended)

SPONSORS:

House Committee on Ways and Means

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY:

02/06/25 H57, published as amended, Passed to be engrossed - 126 YEAS to 26 NAYS

EXISTING LAWS AFFECTED:

M.G.L. c. 23B § 30

PROPOSED LEGISLATION:

- Appropriates \$425M of fiscal year 2025 direct appropriations for purposes related to supportive services and safe shelter for unhoused families in the Commonwealth.
- Provides funding to make temporary respite sites available to families for up to 30 days.
- Requires each individual adult applicant or beneficiary of emergency housing assistance benefits to disclose on their initial or subsequent applications all prior criminal convictions.
- Requires the Executive Office of Housing and Livable Communities to obtain criminal offender record information from the department of criminal justice information services for each individual adult applicant or beneficiary prior to placement into the emergency housing assistance program.
- Requires the Executive Office of Housing and Livable Communities to promulgate regulations placing limitations or exclusions on individuals found to have convictions or pending charges for serious crimes, as defined by the Office by regulation.
- States that a family with children or a pregnant woman with no other children that receives benefits through the emergency housing assistance program shall, subject to appropriation and rules and regulations, remain eligible for the program for not more than 6 consecutive months.

- Allows a family with children or pregnant woman with no other children that receives benefits through the emergency housing assistance program to receive extensions to the length of stay limit upon written certification of hardship by the Secretary of Housing and Livable Communities.
- Requires the Executive Office of Housing and Livable Communities to require each adult applicant or beneficiary that joins a family receiving emergency housing assistance to provide notice to the Executive Office of any addition to the family and require a complete review of all information necessary to verify the individual's eligibility.
- Requires that families whose income exceeds 200 per cent of the federal poverty level for 4 consecutive months to be deemed ineligible for the emergency housing assistance program.
- Requires that all emergency housing assistance program benefits be provided to families consisting entirely of residents of the commonwealth who are citizens of the United States or persons lawfully admitted for permanent residence or otherwise permanently residing in the United States under the color of law, except in cases where a child in the family is a citizen of the United States, a person lawfully admitted for permanent residence or a person permanently residing in the United States under color of law.
- Requires that, to the extent practicable, the Executive Office of Housing and Livable Communities make best efforts to place a family within 20 miles of the household's home community.
- Requires that the Executive Office of Housing and Livable Communities verify, for each applicant for emergency housing assistance benefits, the applicant's: (A) identity; (B) Massachusetts residency; (C) relationship status; (D) pregnancy status; and (E) other eligibility requirements through third-party verification.
- Requires that each applicant for benefits under the emergency housing assistance program to establish residency in the

Commonwealth and that an applicant's family show an intent to remain in the Commonwealth, which may be shown through sources of verification accepted by the Executive Office of Housing and Livable Communities.

- Requires that an applicant who appears to be eligible for shelter based on statements provided by the family and any other information in the possession of the Executive Office of Housing and Livable Communities but who need additional time to obtain any third-party verifications be placed on a waitlist for emergency housing assistance.
- Requires that for the period of December 31, 2025 to December 31, 2026, the total capacity of the emergency housing assistance program not exceed 4,000 families.
- Requires the Executive Office of Housing and Livable Communities to submit a biweekly report to the Senate and House of Representatives containing certain information related to the emergency housing assistance program.
- Requires the Executive Office for Administration and Finance, in consultation with the Executive Office of Housing and Livable Communities, to submit a report detailing a plan to phase out the use of hotels and motels for emergency housing assistance not later than December 31, 2025.
- Requires the Executive Office of Housing and Livable Communities to submit a report on strategies and investments necessary for the prevention of homelessness and promotion of stable rehousing.

ESTIMATED

FISCAL

IMPACT:

This legislation has a cost of \$425M to the Commonwealth in fiscal year 2025 direct appropriations.

(AHC)