

# ID CARDS FOR UNHOUSED RESIDENTS

Status

Passed by Senate

Bill

S.2251

## *An Act to provide identification to youth and adults experiencing homelessness*

An ID card opens the door to applying for jobs, enrolling in school, and opening a bank account.

The Senate's bill removes financial barriers to an ID for people experiencing homelessness, empowering people to access the services and institutions that help Massachusetts residents move forward.

*The bill was passed by the Senate on July 27, 2023.*

### Highlights

- 1 Allows people experiencing homelessness to apply for a free Massachusetts ID.
- 2 Eliminates fees and only requires applicants to provide documentation showing they are receiving support services, instead of traditional documentation like utility bills or leases.
- 3 Includes unaccompanied homeless youth in the state.

# 45,491

*The number of people experiencing homelessness in Massachusetts in 2023, according to the Rehousing Data Collective*

*When we listen to our homeless youth about the challenges they face, there is a common denominator and that is access to identification. Having proper identification is the foundation to accessing food, shelter, and employment opportunities, while also breaking the cycle of poverty.*

– Senator Robyn K. Kennedy (D-Worcester)

