

THE ON SOLID GROUND COALITION

PLEASE SUPPORT THE CROSS-SECTOR AMENDMENTS TO SENATE WAYS & MEANS FY2019 BUDGET



AMENDMENT #797 - ECONOMIC MOBILITY AND STABILITY PROGRAM (NEW)

Amendment Filed by Sen. James Eldridge

Senator Eldridge's amendment establishes a commission to study the numerous self-sufficiency programs operating in Massachusetts. Self-sufficiency or economic mobility programs offer a pathway for financial mobility for families with low incomes, help them get education, increase their incomes, build assets, and attain financial self-sufficiency. This commission would bring together stakeholders to:

- Identify program components that help participants increase their incomes and become more stable in their housing;
- Examine "cliff effects" and provide policy recommendations to ensure people increase their housing stability and economic mobility as their incomes increase, rather than being worse off as benefit programs decrease or end and their incomes aren't enough to make ends meet.
- Determine ways to adjust assistance in response to changes in income tied to minimum wage increases.

AMENDMENT #723 - HOMEBASE (7004-0108)

Amendment Filed by Sen. Brendan Crighton

Senator Crighton's amendment addresses the concern about number of families that return to homelessness and face housing instability at the end of the benefit period with the following program improvements:

- Allows for households who are receiving HomeBASE and have insufficient incomes to maintain the tenancy to renew assistance without having to go through the eviction process which is a burden and costly for families, landlords, housing courts;
- Ensures that HomeBASE families who can no longer afford their unit, who are evicted, through no fault of their own, can access further assistance; and

For more information, contact Abhidnya Kurve, Policy Associate & Coordinator at CHAPA & On Solid Ground Coalition, at akurve@chapa.org or 617-910-7953

- Increases funding to \$35M to cover the estimated costs of renewals; the Governor proposed \$30.1M based on projected caseload and an \$8,000 benefit. The additional funds should cover the cost of renewals based on a 13% return rate and the increased benefit amount proposed by Senate Ways and Means.

AMENDMENT #232 - EARLY EDUCATION SALARY RATE RESERVE (NEW)

Amendment Filed by Sen. Michael Moore

Senator Moore's amendment funds the Center-Based Child Care Rate Increases. These increases in the rates the state pays to early education centers for each child in subsidized care can help facilitate improvements in salary, benefits, and working conditions for early education teachers.

AMENDMENT #14 - INCREASING THE EARNED INCOME TAX CREDIT (NEW)

Amendment Filed by Sen. Jamie Eldridge

Senator Eldridge's amendment increase the state EITC to 50 percent of the federal credit by 2021 and expands eligibility for the state EITC to include filers using Individual Tax Identification Numbers (ITINs). The state EITC is an effective and efficient tax credit that improves health, rewards work, increases economic mobility, and reduces inequality.

AMENDMENT #777 - MRVP RESTORE THE MASSACHUSETTS RENTAL VOUCHER PROGRAM (7004-9024)

Amendment Filed by Sen. Joseph Boncore

Sen. Boncore's amendment restores funding for MRVP to \$120 million. This will allow Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) to issue 1,200 new vouchers, help preserve affordable housing developments, and restore the program to its 1990 funding level. The amendment also makes the following important improvements to increase the MRVP's effectiveness:

- Makes MRVP more usable by increasing voucher rent caps to current fair market rent standards; and
- Gets vouchers out faster by mandating a date for the DHCD to issue new vouchers.