

## **Homes for Families 2019-2020 Legislative Priorities**

*For addressing homelessness, increasing housing stability and economic mobility, and advancing equity in the Commonwealth*

### **MRVP Reforms (HD.3872 & SD.864)**

Sponsored by Rep. & Sen. Eldridge

This legislation would codify, or put into law, and make programmatic fixes to the Massachusetts Rental Voucher Program (MRVP) including: raising the fair market rent standard for rental vouchers; increasing administrative fees; requiring inspections; and improving data collection.

### **Economic Mobility, Data Transparency & System Coordination (HD.2519 & SD.910)**

Sponsored by Rep. Vega & Sen. Lewis

This legislation would evaluate state funded economic mobility programs; examine and address the impacts of cliff effects; and call for increased collaboration and transparency across state agencies relative to homelessness and housing stability.

- **Data Transparency & System Coordination (SD.1433)** Sponsored by Sen. Comerford

### **Housing Production Legislation (HD.3379 & SD.1640)**

Sponsored by Rep. Honan & Sen. Boncore

This legislation expands the Governor's Housing Choice bill to include additional provisions to create more housing, reduce barriers to production, and set affordable housing production goals.

- **Multifamily zoning requirement for cities and towns served by public transit (HD.2718)**

Sponsored by Rep. Barber

- **Setting a statewide affordable housing production goal (HD.3784)**

Sponsored by Rep. Rogers

### **Childcare Assistance for Homeless Families (HD.2469 & SD.1449)**

Sponsored by Rep. Decker & Sen. Lovely

This legislation would increase access to child care and developmental screening for children in shelters.

### **Increased Access to Quality Affordable Early Education and Care (HD.1879 SD.1744)**

Sponsored by Rep. Gordon & Sen. Friedman

This legislation will ensure steps are taken to ensure all children have access to high quality childcare and ensure appropriate professional development and compensation of early educators.

### **Re-Establish a Rental Arrearage Program (HD.2395)**

Sponsored by Rep. Decker

This legislation will address the need for more "upstream" prevention resources

### **Anti-Displacement Legislation**

- **Right to Counsel** (HD.1618; HD.3385 & SD.625) Sponsored by Rep. Rogers; Rep. Tyler & Sen. DiDomenico
- **Landlord Tax Credit** (HD.2639 & SD.723) Sponsored by Rep. Honan & Sen. Boncore

### **HOMES (Housing Opportunity and Mobility through Eviction Sealing) (HD3872 & SD.526)**

Sponsored by Rep. Moran & Sen. Boncore

This bill will protect tenants from being unfairly branded with an eviction record if they don't have a judgment against them.

### **Shelter Access (HD.2406)**

Sponsored by Rep. Decker

This legislation will ensure families experiencing homelessness do not have to stay in places not meant for human habitation before being eligible for Emergency Assistance shelter.

### **Establishing a Special Commission on the Status of Homeless Women (SD.1243)**

Sponsored by Sen. Chandler

The special commission shall facilitate the collection and reporting of data on homelessness among women and persons who identify as women; conduct a community needs assessment; and make recommendations regarding homelessness prevention, improving shelters for women and families, increasing permanent housing opportunities, and ensuring that homeless women have access to a full range of health care and social services.

### **Lift the Cap on Kids (HD.3043 & SD.1452)**

Sponsored by Rep. Decker & Sen. DiDomenico

This legislation will end the policy of denying TAFDC cash benefits to children conceived while their parents were receiving benefits.

### **Increase the Earned Income Tax Credit (HD.3052 & SD.863)**

Sponsored by Rep. Decker & Sen. Eldridge

This bill would increase the MA EITC to 50% of the state credit, expand MA EITC eligibility to taxpayers who file taxes using an Individual Tax Identification Number, and direct the department of revenue to engage in a comprehensive outreach plan to ensure everyone who is eligible for EITC are aware of the credit and claim it when they file taxes.

### **Legislation Relative to the Human Service and Shelter Sector:**

**Fair Pay for Comparable Work** (HD.1270 & SD.1525) Sponsored by Rep. Kahn & Sen. Friedman

**Education Loan Repayment Program** (HD.662 & SD.1352) Sponsored by Rep. Roy & Sen. Lesser

**Health Insurance Aggregation** (HD.1235 & SD.1730) Sponsored by Rep. Lewis & Sen. DiDomenico

**Exemption from EMAC Supplement** (HD.2417 & SD 23) Sponsored by Rep. Cassidy & Sen. Moore