



EMPath
Economic Mobility Pathways

2019-2020 Legislative Priorities

PRIORITY BILLS

ECONOMIC MOBILITY

An Act Improving the Earned Income Tax Credit for Healthier Families (HD3052/SD863)

Sponsors: Rep. Majorie Decker, Sen. Jamie Eldridge

Increases the state Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) from 30% to 50% of the federal EITC and expands eligibility and outreach to reward work and increase economic mobility.

An Act Relative to Economic Mobility for Families with Low-Income (HD2519/SD910)

Sponsors: Rep. Aaron Vega, Sen. Jason Lewis

Requires the collection of data and coordination needed to identify the effective self-sufficiency programs and examines the impact of cliff effects tied to minimum wage increases.

CONSUMER DEBT & PROTECTION

An Act Establishing a Student Tuition Recovery Fund (HD1511/SD953)

Sponsors: Rep. Jennifer Benson, Sen. Jason Lewis

Creates a Student Tuition Recovery Fund (STRF) to reimburse students who are entitled to a refund of tuition and related costs if the for-profit school they attended closed, failed to provide the services promised to their students, or violated state law.

HOUSING & SHELTER

An Act Relative to the Massachusetts Rental Voucher Program (MRVP) (HD3872/SD864)

Sponsors: Rep. Adrian Madaro, Sen. Jamie Eldridge

Puts the MRVP in state statute, and connects allowable rent levels to the current fair market rents as established by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. Currently, households receiving new subsidies are expected to find units at or below the 2005 FMRs, unless a waiver is issued.

An Act to Protect Families Experiencing Homelessness from Having to Sleep in Unsafe Places (HD2406)

Sponsor: Rep. Majorie Decker

Directs the Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) to provide Emergency Assistance (EA) shelter to otherwise eligible families with children without requiring families to prove that they already stayed in a place not meant for human habitation.

ACCESS TO BENEFITS

An Act to Lift the Cap on Kids /An Act Relative to the Well Being and Care of a Child (HD3043/SD1452)

Sponsors: Rep. Majorie Decker, Sen. Sal DiDomenico

Lifts the cap on kids in the Transitional Aid to Families with Dependent Children program which currently prohibits 8,700 children from receiving benefits because of when the child was conceived.