



SUPPORT PASSAGE OF **HOUSE BILL 2077/SENATE BILL 2039** TO STRENGTHEN EMERGENCY AID TO THE ELDERLY, DISABLED AND CHILDREN (EAEDC)

Please Actively Support An Act Relative to Assisting Elders and People with Disabilities in the Commonwealth - House Bill 2077/Senate Bill 2039

House Bill 2077 Lead Sponsors: Representative Jim O'Day and Senator Patricia Jehlen

Cosponsors - Representatives: Brian Ashe, Cory Atkins, Christine Barber, Daniel Cahill, Gerard Cassidy, Nick Collins, Mike Connolly, Marjorie Decker, Daniel Donahue, Michelle DuBois, Sean Garballey, Kenneth Gordon, Danielle Gregoire, Patricia Haddad, Jonathan Hecht, *Paul Heroux*, Daniel Hunt, Louis Kafka, Mary Keefe, Kay Khan, John Lawn, Jack Lewis, David Linsky, Jay Livingstone, John Mahoney, Elizabeth Malia, Joseph McGonagle, Denise Provost, David Rogers, John Rogers, Frank Smizik, Thomas Stanley, Jose Tosado, Steven Ultrino, Aaron Vega, and Chris Walsh.

Senators: Sonia Chang-Diaz, James Eldridge, Barbara L'Italien, William Brownsberger, Sal DiDomenico, Joan Lovely, *Thomas McGee*, Michael Moore, and Marc Pacheco.

Senate Bill 2039 Lead Sponsor: Senator Patricia Jehlen

Cosponsors - Representatives: Marjorie Decker, Antonio Cabral, and Kenneth Gordon.

Bill Status:

Both bills were heard on October 11, 2017 by the Joint Committee on Elder Affairs, and are awaiting action by the committee.

What is EAEDC?

EAEDC is a state-funded cash assistance and benefits program providing support to approximately 19,000 extremely low-income individuals, administered by the Department of Transitional Assistance (DTA).

Who is served by EAEDC?

- Extremely low-income adults 65 years of age or older who are in the process of applying for Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
- Adults experiencing a mental or physical disability that inhibits their ability to work for at least 60 days
- Participants in the Massachusetts Rehabilitation Commission's programs
- Certain caretakers of children who are not eligible to receive Transitional Aid to Families with Dependent Children (TAFDC) program benefits or caretakers of adults with severe disabilities
- Lawfully present immigrants who are residents of Massachusetts

How would House Bill 2077/Senate Bill 2039 improve the EAEDC Program?

These bills would:

1. Remove the shelter reduction/homelessness penalty for individuals experiencing homelessness:

EAEDC program participants who are experiencing homelessness receive a reduced grant of only \$92.80 per month. This monthly grant is significantly lower than the current grant for individuals who have housing and clearly is insufficient to allow these participants to meet their basic needs. By eliminating this grant reduction, EAEDC participants experiencing homelessness (in or out of a shelter) will not be further financially disrupted and may be able to transition into a more stable living arrangement sooner.

2. Increase the EAEDC grant: The typical monthly grant of \$303.70* has not been increased since 1988. While EAEDC is a vital lifeline for program participants, the benefit levels are very low. We are proposing to match the levels provided under the TAFDC program for households of comparable size, so that, for example, one person on EAEDC could receive up to \$428/month (with rent allowance).

*This is the amount provided to single individuals who are responsible for paying some monthly rent, known as “Living Arrangement A”.

3. Increase the allowable personal asset limit from \$250 to \$2,500: Letting an individual have more than \$250 in total monthly assets will allow more EAEDC participants to have assets and to move toward housing stability (by being better able to afford ongoing rent, first month’s rent, last month’s rent, and security deposit payments). The bill language also would exclude the first \$15,000 in a vehicle’s trade-in value when determining the asset limit (as in the TAFDC program), so that more EAEDC applicants with cars can approved—which is especially vital in areas with limited or no public transportation.

4. Create an annual cost of living adjustment (COLA) for EAEDC program participants: Building in a COLA so that DTA can provide increased benefits in response to the wider economic conditions would ensure that participants do not fall behind further economically from year-to-year.

Which organizations are endorsing the EAEDC bills?

As of October 2017, the bill has been endorsed by 74 organizations from across the Commonwealth:

Abby's House	Marie Esther Health Center, Inc.
Action for Boston Community Development	Mass Home Care
Aging Disabilities Resources Consortia of Southeastern MA	Massachusetts Association for Community Action (MASSCAP)
Allston-Brighton Health Collaborative	Massachusetts Association of Councils on Aging
A.R.I.S.E. for Social Justice	Massachusetts Association of Residential Care Homes (MARCH)
Berkeley Retirement Home and Nursing Center	Massachusetts Catholic Conference
Boston Area Rape Crisis Center	Massachusetts Coalition for the Homeless
Boston Center for Independent Living	Massachusetts Law Reform Institute
Boston Homeless Solidarity Committee	Massachusetts Senior Action Council
Bristol Elder Services, Inc.	Mass Home Care
CAPIC (Community Action Programs Inter-City, Inc.)	MetroBoston Aging Disabilities Resources Consortia
Catholic Charities Agency, Diocese of Springfield	MetroWest Aging Disabilities Resources Consortia
Catholic Charities Worcester County	Minuteman Senior Services
Catholic Charities, Archdiocese of Boston	Mount Pleasant Home- Jamaica Plain
Catholic Social Services of Fall River, Inc.	My Brother's Table
Central Boston Elder Services	Mystic Valley Elder Services
Central Massachusetts Housing Alliance	North Shore Community Action Program
Citizens Inn	Old Colony Elder Services
City Mission Society of Boston	Our Father's House
Coastline Elderly Services, Inc.	Pax Christi - Beverly
Common Cathedral	Pine Street Inn
Community Action Inc. of Haverhill	Rosie's Place
Community Action Agency of Somerville, Inc.	Samaritan Inn
Community Day Center of Waltham	Samaritan Steps, Inc.
Cooperative Metropolitan Ministries	Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur - Ipswich Community
Emmaus, Inc.	Sisters of St. Anne, Social Concerns Committee - Marlborough
Family Promise North Shore Boston	Somebody Cares New England
First Church Shelter	Somerville Homeless Coalition
Greater Lynn Senior Services & Lynn Council on Aging	Somerville-Cambridge Elder Services
Harvard Medical School Community Health & Advocacy	Southern Mass. Aging Disabilities Resources Consortia
Subcommittee of Student Leadership Committee, Center for Primary Care	Springwell, Inc.
Harvard Square Homeless Shelter	St. Francis House
Homes for Families	The Pettengill House, Inc.
Hunger Homelessness Division of the Brandeis University	The Psychological Center
Waltham Group	TriCommunity Coalition to End Homelessness
Lazarus House Ministries	Voice of the Poor Committee for Social Justice, Attleboro
Lowell Transitional Living Center	District of St. Vincent de Paul
Lynn Economic Opportunity	Women's Lunch Place
Lynn Shelter Association	

Please do all you can to actively support An Act Relative to Assisting Elders and People with Disabilities in the Commonwealth! For more information, please contact the Massachusetts Coalition for the Homeless: Kelly Turley, Associate Director, kelly@mahomeless.org, 781-595-7570 x 17, 73 Buffum St., Lynn, MA 01902, www.mahomeless.org.