

By Mr. Albano, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 549) of Salvatore R. Albano, Michael J. Barrett, Nicholas J. Costello, Linda J. Melconian, Bill Owens, W. Paul White, Peter A. Vellucci, Geoffrey C. Beckwith, Michael LoPresti, Jr., Shirley Owens-Hicks and Gloria L. Fox for legislation to provide special assistance to the homeless. Human Services and Elderly Affairs.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Ninety.

AN ACT PROVIDING SPECIAL ASSISTANCE TO THE HOMELESS.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 1 of Chapter 117 of the General Laws
2 is hereby amended by adding the following sentences to the end
3 of the first paragraph:

4 Notwithstanding any other provisions of this chapter, the
5 Department shall provide assistance to any homeless resident of
6 the Commonwealth found by the Department to be financially
7 eligible for assistance. Benefits provided to a homeless resident
8 shall continue for the duration of homelessness and for a period
9 of six months thereafter as transition benefits.

1 SECTION 2. Section 2 of Chapter 117 of the General Laws
2 is hereby amended by adding the following paragraph after
3 paragraph (e) in this section:

4 (f) "homeless resident" — a resident who lacks a fixed, regular,
5 and adequate nighttime residence, and has a primary nighttime
6 residence in a shelter, hotel or motel or in a public or private place
7 inappropriate for sleeping.

1 SECTION 3. Section 22 of Chapter 18 of the General Laws
2 is hereby amended by adding the following at the end of the second
3 paragraph:

4 The Department shall accept as verification of medical
5 incapacity for any program administered by the Department the
6 medical statements of any person who is licensed and authorized
7 by state law to conduct medical examinations and to make
8 diagnoses of patients.