

# SENATE . . . . . No. 1595

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## **The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

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SENATE, April 26, 1990.

The committee on Human Services and Elderly Affairs, to whom was referred the 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, reports the accompanying bill (Senate, No. 1595).

[Estimated cost: \$2.5 million.]

For the committee,

SALVATORE R. ALBANO.

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

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In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Ninety.

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## 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. Chapter 117 of the General Laws, as appearing  
2 in the 1988 Official Edition, is hereby amended by inserting after  
3 Section 2A thereof the following new section: —

4 Section 2B. Aid to the homeless.

5 Notwithstanding the requirements of any section of this chapter  
6 to the contrary, the department shall provide assistance to any  
7 financially eligible homeless resident of the Commonwealth for  
8 the duration of such homelessness, and, subject to compliance  
9 with the provisions of section three of this chapter, for a  
10 transitional period of six months thereafter.

1 SECTION 2. Section 2 of Chapter 117 of the General Laws  
2 is hereby amended by inserting after paragraph (e) thereof the  
3 following new paragraph: —

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  
7 place inappropriate for sleeping.

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

4 The department shall accept as verification of mental or  
5 physical incapacity for any program administered by the  
6 department the statements of any person who is licensed under  
7 chapter one hundred and twelve of the General Laws and who  
8 is authorized by said licensure to diagnose said incapacity.