

# HOUSE . . . . . No. 6193

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## *The Commonwealth of Massachusetts*

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HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, October 21, 1991.

The committee on Human Services and Elderly Affairs, to whom were referred so much of the message from His Excellency the Governor recommending legislation relative to revising the government of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and making emergency appropriations (House, No. 5010) (as relates to Section 166), and on the petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 511) of James P. Jajuga and Brian S. Dempsey for legislation to provide for certain recipients of certain assistance from the Commonwealth to perform community service, the petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 527) of Brian P. Lees, Thomas M. Petrolati and Mary L. Padula for legislation to establish a workfare program in the Commonwealth, the petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 2850) of Paul Kollios and other members of the House for legislation to increase the standard of need for low-income households in the Commonwealth, and the petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 3233) of Gregory W. Sullivan, Thomas G. Palumbo and Marie-Louise Kehoe for legislation to establish a workfare program or community work experience program, reports recommending that the accompanying bill (House, No. 6193) ought to pass.

For the committee,

PAUL KOLLIOS.

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Ninety-One.

AN ACT FACILITATING THE TRANSITION OF AFDC RECIPIENTS TO PAID EMPLOYMENT.

*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 3 of chapter 118 of the General Laws is  
2 hereby amended by striking the last three paragraphs and inserting  
3 in place thereof the following: —

4 The department shall provide a program of employment and  
5 training including childcare and support services, referred to  
6 hereafter as JOBS, to eligible recipients. Seventy-five per cent of  
7 non-childcare JOBS funding shall be expended to serve the  
8 following three categories of recipients:

9 (a) families in which the parent is under the age of twenty-four  
10 and lacks a high school diploma or has had little or no work  
11 experience in the previous year;

12 (b) families who have received assistance for longer than thirty-  
13 six months during the preceding five years;

14 (c) families in which the youngest child is within two years of  
15 being ineligible for assistance because of age.

16 The JOBS program shall include but not be limited to the  
17 following components:

18 (a) a life skills curriculum, targeted to recipients who are not  
19 enrolled in a JOBS vocational skills training program. The  
20 department shall enter into a written agreement with the university  
21 of Massachusetts cooperative extension for the provision of this  
22 component.

23 (b) a vocational exploration program, which shall provide  
24 recipients with the opportunity to “shadow” employees at work  
25 sites in order to assist the recipient in selecting a JOBS vocational  
26 skills training program. The department shall enter into a written  
27 agreement with regional employment boards for the provision of  
28 this component.

29 The department shall eliminate monthly reporting requirements  
30 and shall institute prospective budgeting, in order to facilitate the  
31 transition of recipients into paid employment and to eliminate the  
32 need for supplemental payments.

33 The department shall sanction recipients who have successfully  
34 completed two JOBS vocational skills training programs and who  
35 have refused employment which meets the criteria set forth by the  
36 department.

37 No individual shall be considered ineligible for aid or assistance  
38 for failure to comply with the provisions of this chapter if such  
39 failure is due to illness or disability. This section shall not apply  
40 to any recipients under chapter one hundred and eighteen A. In  
41 no event shall failure to comply with the provisions of this section  
42 affect the eligibility of minor children for assistance under this  
43 chapter.

1 SECTION 2. Notwithstanding the provisions of any general or  
2 specific law to the contrary, the department of public welfare shall  
3 spend up to \$250,000 of its JOBS appropriation to plan and  
4 implement demonstration projects which coordinate JOBS and  
5 job creation activities by: 1) assisting recipients in engaging in self-  
6 employment; 2) assisting in the creation of cooperative business  
7 enterprises by recipients; and 3) developing employment  
8 opportunities for recipients through assisting or establishing  
9 government owned business enterprises.

10 The methods by which such assistance shall be provided may  
11 include: 1) provision of technical and legal assistance; 2) assistance  
12 in obtaining credit from public and private sources; 3) provision  
13 of direct financial support; 4) relaxation of AFDC income and  
14 asset rules, subject to the granting of appropriate waivers from  
15 the federal government; and 5) coordination with the assisted  
16 placement program.

17 The services to be made available as part of such demonstration  
18 projects may be provided by the department of public welfare,  
19 other appropriate state or local agencies, or by nonprofit  
20 organizations. A plan for such demonstration projects shall be  
21 submitted to the joint committee on human services and elderly  
22 affairs prior to implementation and no later than June 30, 1992.

1 SECTION 3. Notwithstanding the provisions of any general or  
2 specific law to the contrary, the department of public welfare shall  
3 expend no more than \$750,000 of its JOBS appropriation to  
4 establish a pilot community work experience program for  
5 recipients of aid to families with dependent children. Participants  
6 will receive a stipend of \$90 per month in order to pay for work-  
7 related expenses. This stipend will be considered non-countable  
8 income in determining eligibility for any whole or partially state-  
9 funded benefit, and the amount of any such benefit. The  
10 department and the host organization will contribute equally to  
11 this stipend.

12 The program shall target the following three categories of  
13 recipients: 1) families in which the parent is under the age of  
14 twenty-four and lacks a high school diploma or has had little or  
15 no work experience in the previous year; 2) families who have  
16 received assistance for longer than thirty-six months during the  
17 preceding five years; 3) families in which the youngest child is  
18 within two years of being ineligible for assistance because of age.

19 Recipients within these categories shall be exempt from  
20 participation if they are: 1) under the age of sixteen; 2) over the  
21 age of sixteen and attending school full-time; 3) ill or  
22 incapacitated; 4) sixty years of age or older; 5) working thirty or  
23 more hours per week, 6) in the second or third trimester of  
24 pregnancy; 7) required in the home to care for an ill or  
25 incapacitated household member; 8) caring for a child under the  
26 age of six; or 9) included in any other exempted category required  
27 by federal law or determined by the department to be appropriate.

28 Participation in this program will be mandatory for non-  
29 exempt recipients in the three target groups. However, the  
30 department shall first accept volunteers from these target groups  
31 before requiring that other members of these groups participate  
32 in the program.

1 SECTION 4. The executive office of health and human  
2 services shall study the feasibility and cost-effectiveness of raising  
3 the standard of need for recipients of aid to families with  
4 dependent children to one hundred and thirty per cent of the  
5 standard of assistance, including any rental allowance provided

6 to such recipients. The office shall report its findings to the house  
7 and senate committees on ways and means and the joint  
8 committee on human services and elderly affairs no later than  
9 June 30, 1992.

1 SECTION 5. The executive office of health and human  
2 services, in consultation with the department of revenue, shall  
3 conduct a cost/benefit analysis of implementing a child support  
4 insurance program. The purpose of this program would be to  
5 provide a guaranteed minimum child support payment to all  
6 families in which one parent is absent and the custodial parent  
7 has cooperated with any efforts of the department of revenue in  
8 locating the non-custodial parent. This payment would be  
9 deducted from the grant of any family receiving aid to families  
10 with dependent children with the exception of the existing fifty  
11 dollar pass-through. However, this child support insurance  
12 payment would not be reduced by any income the custodial parent  
13 receives from paid employment.

14 The executive office of health and human services shall report  
15 its findings to the house and senate committees on ways and means  
16 and the joint committee on human services and elderly affairs no  
17 later than June 30, 1992.

1 SECTION 6. Notwithstanding the provisions of any general or  
2 specific law to the contrary, the commonwealth shall comply with  
3 all child support enforcement provisions of public law 100-485,  
4 the family support act of 1988, including but not limited to the  
5 following: 1) using uniform guidelines in determining the amount  
6 of child support awards; 2) meeting federal performance standards  
7 in establishing paternity of children born out of wedlock and  
8 receiving aid to families with dependent children, or IV-D services  
9 from the department of revenue; 3) establishing procedures to  
10 require that the child and all other parties in a contested paternity  
11 case submit to genetic testing at the request of any party; and 4)  
12 obtaining the social security numbers of both parents when birth  
13 certificates are issued.





