

By Mr. Valianti of Marlborough, petition of Daniel J. Valiant, John A. Businger, Byron Rushing and Alvin E. Thompson relative to income security for residents of the Commonwealth. Human Services and Elderly Affairs.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

AN ACT TO ASSURE INCOME SECURITY TO ALL RESIDENTS OF THE COMMONWEALTH.

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

1 The General Laws are hereby amended by adding, after chapter
2 one hundred eighteen f the following new chapter one hundred
3 eighteen g:
4 Section 1. It shall be the policy of the commonwealth to assure
5 that every resident of the commonwealth has sufficient income to
6 meet the resident's basic needs. To that end, the governor shall,
7 within ninety days of the enactment of this act, appoint a commis-
8 sion on income security consisting of six government officers, at
9 least three of whom shall be cabinet level, and six members of the
10 public, at least three of whom shall be representatives of groups of
11 low income individuals. The commission shall report to the house
12 and senate committees on ways and means no later than January
13 third, nineteen hundred and ninety six. Said report shall include
14 (1) a determination of the cost of assuring an income equal to the
15 federal poverty level for all residents of the commonwealth; such
16 a cost estimate shall take into account all currently available fed-
17 eral cash benefits and shall propose methods for integrating the
18 secured income with benefits provided under those programs and
19 for maximizing federal assistance for the income security pro-
20 gram, (2) a set of proposals, with cost estimates, for phasing in the
21 income security program over time.

