

SENATE . . . . . No. 2447

---

---

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

---

SENATE, July 30, 2002.

The committee on Ways and Means, to whom was committed the Senate Bill to end child hunger in Massachusetts (Senate, No. 722), report recommending that the same ought to pass with an amendment substituting a new draft with the same title (Senate, No. 2447).

For the committee,

MARK C. MONTIGNY.

## The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand and Two.

### AN ACT TO END CHILD HUNGER IN MASSACHUSETTS.

*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. The fourth paragraph of section 5 of Chapter 18  
2 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2000 Official Edition, is  
3 hereby amended in the fourth paragraph by inserting after the  
4 second sentence the following 3 sentences:—

5 In establishing office hours or other outreach arrangements, the  
6 commissioner shall, to the extent possible within existing  
7 resources, provide for regular evening and weekend office hours  
8 in each community service area. In addition, the commissioner  
9 shall, to the extent possible within existing resources, provide for  
10 the placement of department employees to locations that are  
11 readily accessible to eligible individuals including, but not limited  
12 to, such locations as community health centers. The commissioner  
13 shall also provide for the placement of kiosks in public areas that  
14 are likely to be frequented by applicants and recipients where  
15 individuals can obtain information about the food stamp program  
16 and an estimate of the benefits for which they may be eligible,  
17 consistent with eligibility requirements, in a manner that meets  
18 the language needs of applicants and recipients.

1 SECTION 2. Section 1C of chapter 69 of the General Laws, as  
2 so appearing, is hereby amended by striking out the second para-  
3 graph and inserting in place thereof the following paragraph:—

4 The board shall further require all public schools which draw  
5 attendance from areas with a high number of needy children, as  
6 defined by the board, to make school breakfast programs available  
7 to children and to operate those programs in accordance with the  
8 federal laws and regulations pertaining to school breakfast pro-  
9 grams. Any school that is required to administer a school break-  
10 fast program shall, subject to appropriation, make the program

11 available at no cost to all children in the school, regardless of their  
12 eligibility for free or reduced price meals pursuant to federal  
13 income eligibility guidelines. The commonwealth shall reimburse  
14 each city and town required by this paragraph to make school  
15 breakfast available at a uniform rate determined pursuant to the  
16 following paragraph, which rate shall provide for the payment by  
17 the commonwealth of the reasonable costs of making breakfast  
18 available, reduced by the amount of revenue received by the city  
19 and town from federal reimbursements or any other source with  
20 respect to the provision of breakfasts. The department shall make  
21 the reimbursements in accordance with the same schedule as fed-  
22 eral reimbursements are made to the city or town with respect to  
23 such breakfast programs. Schools and school districts that are  
24 required to offer school breakfast programs pursuant to this  
25 section shall, subject to regulations of the board that specify time  
26 and learning standards, serve breakfast during regular school  
27 hours so as to ensure maximum participation by children who  
28 attend the school.

1 SECTION 3. Said section 1C of said chapter 69, as so  
2 appearing, is hereby further amended by adding the following  
3 2 paragraphs:—

4 The board shall administer a summer food service program,  
5 funded by the commonwealth and the United States Department of  
6 Agriculture or other successor federal agency authorized to fund  
7 this program, to provide food service to children from needy areas  
8 during periods of the year when school is not in session. The  
9 summer food service program shall be administered in a manner  
10 consistent with applicable federal laws and regulations and this  
11 section.

12 The board shall administer an after-school snack program for  
13 children funded by the commonwealth and the United States  
14 Department of Agriculture through its child and adult care food  
15 program, the national school lunch program or by any successor  
16 federal agency authorized to fund programs that provide food sup-  
17 plements to needy children after school. The after-school snack  
18 program shall be administered through child care centers and  
19 child care facilities that meet standards established in applicable  
20 state and federal law. The after-school snack program shall be

21 administered in a manner consistent with applicable federal laws  
22 and regulations and this section.

1 SECTION 4. (a) For the purposes of this section, the words  
2 “child nutrition programs” shall mean:— (i) the food service pro-  
3 grams administered by the board of education, including the  
4 school breakfast program, the school lunch program, the after-  
5 school snack program and the summer food service program;  
6 (ii) the WIC program administered by the department of public  
7 health; and (iii) the food stamp program administered by the  
8 department of transitional assistance as it applies to children under  
9 the age of 18.

10 (b) The department of transitional assistance, the department of  
11 public health and the board of education shall develop and imple-  
12 ment a process for receiving applications and determining eligi-  
13 bility for all child nutrition programs in a centralized manner so as  
14 to create a single application process with multiple points of entry  
15 for all child nutrition programs for the purpose of simplifying  
16 access to child nutrition programs. That process shall allow for the  
17 submission of applications through private agencies or organiza-  
18 tions, in addition to submission through either of the departments  
19 or a school district. The process shall also allow for the submis-  
20 sion of applications in person, by mail or through electronic  
21 means. In implementing the process, the departments shall, con-  
22 sistent with all applicable laws and regulations, protect the confi-  
23 dentiality and privacy of applicants and their personal  
24 information. The department of transitional assistance shall seek  
25 any federal waivers that may be necessary to implement the  
26 process.

27 (c) The department of transitional assistance, the department of  
28 public health and the board of education shall jointly develop a  
29 single application for all child nutrition programs. The single  
30 application shall require applicants to provide not more than the  
31 minimum amount of information required by applicable state and  
32 federal statutes and regulations. The application and instructions  
33 shall be the shortest necessary to achieve their purpose and shall  
34 be written so that they may be readily understood by persons with  
35 not greater than a grade 3 reading level. The application shall also  
36 be made available in languages commonly spoken by applicants.

37 (d) The department of transitional assistance, the department of  
38 public health and the board of education shall coordinate policies,  
39 programs and outreach activities for all child nutrition programs.

1 SECTION 5. (a) All written communications from the depart-  
2 ment of transitional assistance to food stamp program applicants  
3 and recipients shall be written so that they shall be readily under-  
4 stood by persons with not greater than a grade 3 reading level and  
5 shall be written in languages commonly spoken by applicants and  
6 recipients.

7 (b) The commissioner of transitional assistance shall develop  
8 and implement a case management system for food stamp appli-  
9 cants and recipients that provides for the following: caseworker  
10 continuity, timely and direct access to caseworkers, accurate  
11 tracking and retention of eligibility documentation submitted by  
12 an applicant or recipient, accurate tracking, recording and reten-  
13 tion of all written and oral contacts between the department of  
14 transitional assistance and the applicant or recipient, accurate  
15 tracking and retention of all eligibility documentation submitted  
16 by the applicant or recipient and any other measures that ensure  
17 timely access to and retention of benefits.

18 (c) Before a determination of cash payments or any other form  
19 of assistance provided pursuant to chapter 118 of the General  
20 Laws or chapter 5 of the acts of 1995, the department of transi-  
21 tional assistance shall inform the recipient orally and in writing of  
22 the recipient's right to apply for continued participation in the  
23 food stamp program, shall provide assistance in completing the  
24 application and shall provide an estimate of the amount of food  
25 stamps the recipient may be eligible to receive. The written com-  
26 munications shall be written so that they may be readily under-  
27 stood by persons with not greater than a grade 3 reading level and  
28 shall be written in languages commonly spoken by applicants.

1 SECTION 6. To the extent that the implementation of this act  
2 requires the receipt of a federal waiver, the relevant department  
3 shall take all actions necessary to obtain such waivers.



No. 1412

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

PHYSICS DEPARTMENT

CHICAGO, ILL.

TO THE DIRECTOR OF THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO  
FROM THE PHYSICS DEPARTMENT

RECEIVED

APR 10 1954

PHYSICS DEPARTMENT

