

HOUSE No. 3479

By Mr. Frost of Auburn, petition of Paul K. Frost, Francis L. Marini, Bradley H. Jones, Jr., David M. Peters, Vincent A. Pedone and Richard T. Moore relative to providing low interest loans to families with children suffering from terminal illnesses. Human Services and Elderly Affairs.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

AN ACT TO PROVIDE LOW INTEREST LOANS TO FAMILIES WITH A CHILD SUFFERING FROM A TERMINAL ILLNESS.

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 Commonwealth, through the Department of
2 Health and Human Services, shall institute a pilot program to pro-
3 vide a one time loan, up to and not in excess of ten thousand dol-
4 lars to thirty individuals in the Commonwealth to assist them in
5 the payment of expenses directly resulting from expenditures
6 incurred due to a child being diagnosed with a terminal illness.

1 SECTION 2. The application process for the purpose of
2 meeting the eligibility requirements for this act shall be in accor-
3 dance with the standards and guidelines established by the
4 Department of Public Health. The definition of "terminal illness"
5 for the purpose of this Act shall mean an illness which is likely,
6 within a reasonable degree of medical certainty, to cause death
7 within six months.

1 SECTION 3. The terms of the loan shall be determined by the
2 Department of Health and Human Services and shall not exceed in

3 any situation an amount greater than ten thousand dollars. Interest
4 collected on the loan shall be set at either 2% or the current
5 interest rate at the time of the loan; whichever is higher.

1 SECTION 4. The loan shall only be used for those expenditures
2 incurred as a direct result of attending to the terminally ill family
3 member. Receipts, bills, cancelled checks or any other form of
4 payment shall be available to the Department of Public Health
5 upon request to verify any expenditures relative to the loan.

1 SECTION 5. Upon meeting the eligibility requirements for the
2 loan, said loan shall be placed in a separate account with access
3 for both Department of Health and Human Services and the indi-
4 vidual who accepted the loan.

1 SECTION 6. Repayment of the loan with the appropriate
2 interest shall begin one year to the date after the loan was issued
3 to the recipient. Payment will be due on the first of the month
4 until the terms set in the loan agreement are paid in full. Failure to
5 comply with the terms of the loan agreement at any time shall
6 result in the rate of interest being set at 10% for the remainder of
7 the loan.