



# FY2019 Senate Amendments

FOR AFFORDABLE HOUSING, HOMELESSNESS PREVENTION,  
& COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS

**Please co-sponsor and support the following amendments to help everyone in the Commonwealth have a safe, healthy, and affordable home!**

#	Category	Line Item	Program	Sponsor	Description
777	ECO	7004-9024	Mass. Rental Voucher Program	<b>Sen. Boncore</b>	Program improvements for MRVP & increases funding to \$120 million
683	ECO	7004-9030	Alternative Housing Voucher Program	<b>Sen. Eldridge</b>	Increases funding for AHVP to \$7.7 million
741	ECO	7004-9005	Public Housing Operating	<b>Sen. Boncore</b>	Increases funding for Public Housing to \$67 million
680	ECO	7004-9316	Residential Assistance for Families in Transition	<b>Sen. Eldridge</b>	Ensures at least \$3 million from RAFT will be used to support seniors, persons with disabilities, & homeless youths
723	ECO	7004-0108	HomeBASE	<b>Sen. Crighton</b>	Increases funding for HomeBASE to \$35 million and makes program improvements
684	ECO	7006-0011	Foreclosure Prevention	<b>Sen. Eldridge</b>	Increases Foreclosure Prevention funding to \$3,650,000
791	ECO	7004-3045	Tenancy Preservation Program	<b>Sen. Cyr</b>	Increases funding for TPP to \$1.3 million
726	ECO	7004-0104	Home & Healthy for Good	<b>Sen. Feeney</b>	Increases funding to \$2.34 million with language changes
697	ECO	<b>NEW</b>	New Lease	<b>Sen. Eldridge</b>	Funds New Lease with \$250,000
797	ECO	<b>Outside Section</b>	Economic Mobility Commission	<b>Sen. Eldridge</b>	Creates a commission to study economic mobility and stability programs
775	ECO	<b>Outside Section</b>	Tenant Elections	<b>Sen. Boncore</b>	Creates process to add a tenant member to the boards of local housing authorities in towns
14	OTH	<b>Outside Section</b>	Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC)	<b>Sen. Eldridge</b>	Increases State EITC to 50% of the federal credit
3	OTH	<b>Outside Section</b>	Community Preservation Act (CPA)	<b>Sen. Creem</b>	Increases deed recording fees that contribute to CPA funds

For more information, contact Eric Shupin, CHAPA's Director of Public Policy, [eshupin@chapa.org](mailto:eshupin@chapa.org) or 617-742-0820 ext. 103





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**Please co-sponsor the following budget amendments to help everyone in the Commonwealth have a safe, healthy, and affordable home!**

## **# 777 - Massachusetts Rental Voucher Program (MRVP) (7004-9024)**

Sponsored by Sen. Joseph Boncore

Sen. Joseph Boncore's amendment increases funding to \$120 million and makes the following important improvements to increase the MRVP's effectiveness:

- Makes MRVP more usable by using current fair market rent standards;
- Gets vouchers out faster by mandating a date for the DHCD to issue new vouchers in FY19; and
- Allows MRVP to serve more extremely low-income (ELI) households by directing 75% of new vouchers to ELI families.

## **# 683 - Alternative Housing Voucher Program (AHVP) (7004-9030)**

Sponsored by Sen. Jamie Eldridge

Sen. Eldridge's amendment increases funding for AHVP to \$7.7 million, to provide additional rental vouchers for low-income households with persons with disabilities.

## **#741 - Public Housing Operating Subsidy (7004-9005)**

Sponsored by Sen. Joseph Boncore

Sen. Boncore's amendment increases funding for public housing authorities to \$67 million to help support the more than 45,600 state public housing units in Massachusetts. Over three-quarters of public housing residents are elderly or persons with disabilities.

## **#680 - Residential Assistance for Families in Transition (RAFT) (7004-9316)**

Sponsored by Sen. Jamie Eldridge

Sen. Eldridge's amendment ensures that at least \$3 million from RAFT will be used to help seniors, persons with disabilities, and unaccompanied homeless youth avoid homelessness.

## **#723 - HomeBASE (7004-0108)**

Sponsored by Sen. Brendan Crighton

Sen. Crighton's amendment addresses concerns about the number of families that return to homelessness and face housing instability at the end of the benefit period with the following program improvements:

- Allows for households to renew assistance without going through the eviction process when their incomes are insufficient to maintain their tenancies.
- Ensures access to further assistance when families who have used HomeBASE can no longer afford their homes and are evicted through no fault of their own.
- Increases funding to \$35 million to cover the estimated costs of renewals.

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## **#684 - Foreclosure Prevention & Counselling (7006-0011)**

Sponsored by Sen. Jamie Eldridge

Sen. Eldridge's amendment increases Foreclosure Prevention funding to \$3,650,000 to support foreclosure prevention and housing counseling across the Commonwealth.

## **#791 - Tenancy Preservation Program (TPP) (7004-3045)**

Sponsored by Sen. Julian Cyr

Sen. Cyr's amendment increases TPP funding to \$1.3 million to help expand this homelessness prevention program that works in Housing Court to assist households with disabilities facing eviction. These additional funds will allow TPP to serve households as Housing Court is expanded statewide.

## **#726 - Home and Healthy for Good (7004-0104)**

Sponsored by Sen. Feeney

Sen. Feeney's amendment increases funding for the program to \$2.34 million for provides housing and supportive services to chronically homeless individuals through a housing first model that is less costly and more effective than managing residents' homelessness and health problems on the street or in shelter.

## **#697 - New Lease for Homeless Families (7004-0106)**

Sponsored by Sen. Jamie Eldridge

Sen. Eldridge's amendment provides \$250,000 for New Lease, a program that helps find homes for families living in shelters by implementing a preference for these families in affordable housing developments across the state.

## **#697 - Economic Mobility Commission (Outside Section)**

Sponsored by Sen. Jamie Eldridge

Sen. Eldridge's amendment establishes a commission to study the numerous self-sufficiency programs operating in Massachusetts. Self-Sufficiency programs offer a pathway for financial mobility for families with low incomes, help them get education, increase their incomes, build assets, and attain financial self-sufficiency.

## **#775 - Tenant Elections (Outside Section)**

Sponsored by Sen. Joseph Boncore

Sen. Boncore's amendment creates a procedure for tenant board members in towns to be appointed by the town administrator from a list of tenant names submitted by a tenant organization at the LHA.

## **#14 – Earned Income Tax Credit (Outside Section)**

Sponsored by Sen. Jamie Eldridge

Sen. Eldridge's amendment increases the state EITC to 50% of the federal EITC value from the 30% in a tiered manner. The state EITC is an effective and efficient tax credit that improves health, rewards work, increases economic mobility, and reduces inequality.

## **#3 – Community Preservation Act (Outside Section)**

Sponsored by Sen. Cynthia Creem

Sen. Creem's amendment adjusts recording fees at the state's Registries of Deeds to provide a higher distribution from the Community Preservation Trust Fund to communities that have enacted the CPA. This will help sustain CPA for the benefit of all these communities as a resource that builds affordable housing and create jobs.

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