



Western Massachusetts Network to End Homelessness 2019-2021 Legislative Priorities

- **RIGHT TO COUNSEL in EVICTIONS: An Act promoting housing stability and homelessness prevention** (consolidated bill in process, S. 913, H. 3456, H. 1537) (*Lead sponsors: Sen. DeDomenico, Sen. Rogers, Rep. Day, Rep. Tyler; Western MA Co-sponsors: Sen. Comerford, Rep. Ashe, Rep. Blais, Rep. Domb, Rep. Farley-Bouvier, Rep. Gonzalez, Rep. Mark, Rep. Sabadosa, Rep. Tosado, Rep. Vega, Rep. Williams*) to provide low-income tenants and landlords the right to counsel in an eviction proceeding. *Judiciary Committee Chairs Sen. Eldridge, Chair Cronin. W.MA members: Sen. Lesser, Rep. Velis, Rep. Whipps. Extension granted to May 12.*
- **EVICTION RECORD SEALING: An Act promoting housing opportunity and mobility through eviction sealing (HOMES), S.824/H. 3566** (*Lead Sponsors: Sen. Boncore, Rep. Moran; Western MA Co-sponsors: Sen. Comerford, Sen. Hinds, Sen. Lesser, Rep. Blais, Rep. Carey, Rep. Domb, Rep. Farley-Bouvier, Rep. González, Rep. Mark, Rep. Sabadosa, Rep. Tosado, Rep. Williams*) to protect tenants from being unfairly branded with an eviction record. *Judiciary Committee Chairs Sen. Eldridge, Rep. Cronin. W.MA members: Sen. Lesser, Rep. Velis, Rep. Whipps. Extension granted to May 12.*
- **UPSTREAM HOMELESSNESS PREVENTION: An Act to further provide a rental arrearage program, H. 1264** (*Lead Sponsor: Rep. Decker; Western MA Co-sponsors: Sen. Comerford, Sen. Welch, Rep. Blais, Rep. Domb, Rep. Gonzalez, Rep. Sabadosa, Rep. Tosado, Rep. Williams*) to prevent homelessness by helping people remain stably housed prior to an eviction. *Housing Committee Chairs Sen. Crighton, Rep. Honan. W. MA member: Rep. Tosado. Reported out favorably.*
- **MA ID: An Act to provide identification to homeless youth and families S. 191/H. 3066** (*Lead Sponsors: Senator Chandler, Rep. Kahn; Western MA Co-sponsors: Sen. Comerford, Rep. Blais, Rep. Carey, Rep. Domb, Rep. Farley-Bouvier, Rep. Gonzalez, Rep. Mark, Rep. Sabadosa, Rep. Tosado, Rep. Vega, Rep. Williams*) to allow for a fee waiver and alternative residency documentation. **PASSED FULL SENATE.** *Senate version in House Ways and Means Committee. House version in Health Care Financing Committee.*
- **REAL ESTATE TRANSFER FEE FOR AFFORDABLE HOUSING: An Act supporting affordable housing with a local option for a real estate transfer fee**, (consolidated bill in process) **S.773, H.2552, H.2457, H.1769**, (*Lead sponsors: Sen. Comerford Sen. Boncore, also sponsoring: Sen. Hinds, Rep. Domb, Rep. González, Rep. Sabadosa*) would give cities and

towns a critical tool to raise revenue for affordable housing. *Housing Committee (S.773) Chairs: Sen. Crighton, Rep. Honan. W. MA member: Rep. Tosado. Revenue Committee (H.2552, H. 1769) Chairs: Sen. Hinds, Rep. Cusack. W. MA members: Rep. Boldyga, Rep. Domb, Rep. Whipps. S.773 reported favorably. Revenue bills granted extension to March 16.*

- **BILL OF RIGHTS: An Act providing a bill of rights for people experiencing homelessness, S.816/H.1314** (*Lead Sponsors: Sen. Rausch, Rep. Pignatelli; Western MA Co-sponsors: Rep. Finn, Rep. González*) to end prejudicial barriers against people experiencing homelessness. *Committee on Children, Families and Persons with Disabilities Chairs Sen. Chang-Diaz, Rep. Khan. Extension granted to March 18.*
- **REDUCING THE CLIFF EFFECT: An Act Concerning Public Assistance for Working Families and the Creation of a Public Program to Address Impact of Cliff Effects, S.57/H.174** (*Lead Sponsors: Sen. Lesser, Rep. Vega; Western MA Co-sponsors: Sen. Comerford, Sen. Hinds, Sen. Welch, Rep. Ashe, Rep. Blais, Rep. Carey, Rep. Domb, Rep. Finn, Rep. González, Rep. Mark, Rep. Pignatelli, Rep. Puppolo, Rep. Sabadosa, Rep. Tosado, Rep. Velis, Rep. Williams*) to create a pilot program that would reduce the impact of cliff effects on low-income families seeking greater economic opportunity. *Committee on Children, Families and Persons with Disabilities Chairs Sen. Chang-Diaz, Rep. Khan. Extension granted to March 18.*