

HOUSE No. 4052

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts



CHARLES D. BAKER
GOVERNOR

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
STATE HOUSE · BOSTON, MA 02133
(617) 725-4000

KARYN POLITO
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

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To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives,

I am returning unsigned House Bill No. 4011, “An Act relative to eligibility for emergency assistance to elderly, disabled residents and children.”

This bill requires the Department of Transitional Assistance (DTA) to eliminate any asset test for Emergency Assistance to Elderly, Disabled and Children (EAEDC) applicants. It appeared as an outside section to the Fiscal Year 2022 budget, which I returned with amendment, proposing instead to align the asset limit for the program with the federal Supplemental Security Income (SSI) Program. I prefer this alternative to eliminating the asset test completely, as EAEDC is generally designed to provide a bridge to individuals waiting for an eligibility determination from the SSI program. I look forward to the opportunity to work collaboratively with the Legislature to develop a policy that is in alignment with relevant federal policies and ensures that these benefits are available for individuals and families in highest need.

For these reasons, I am returning House Bill No. 4011 unsigned.

Respectfully submitted,

Charles D. Baker,
Governor