

HOUSE No. 84

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Marjorie C. Decker

To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in General Court assembled:

The undersigned legislators and/or citizens respectfully petition for the adoption of the accompanying bill:

An Act to further provide a rental arrearage program.

PETITION OF:

| NAME: | DISTRICT/ADDRESS: |
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| <i>Marjorie C. Decker</i> | <i>25th Middlesex</i> |
| <i>Cory Atkins</i> | <i>14th Middlesex</i> |
| <i>Mike Connolly</i> | <i>26th Middlesex</i> |
| <i>Sal N. DiDomenico</i> | <i>Middlesex and Suffolk</i> |
| <i>Michelle M. DuBois</i> | <i>10th Plymouth</i> |
| <i>James B. Eldridge</i> | <i>Middlesex and Worcester</i> |
| <i>Sean Garballey</i> | <i>23rd Middlesex</i> |
| <i>Solomon Goldstein-Rose</i> | <i>3rd Hampshire</i> |
| <i>Danielle W. Gregoire</i> | <i>4th Middlesex</i> |
| <i>Patricia D. Jehlen</i> | <i>Second Middlesex</i> |
| <i>Kay Khan</i> | <i>11th Middlesex</i> |
| <i>Peter V. Kocot</i> | <i>1st Hampshire</i> |
| <i>John J. Lawn, Jr.</i> | <i>10th Middlesex</i> |
| <i>Jason M. Lewis</i> | <i>Fifth Middlesex</i> |
| <i>David Paul Linsky</i> | <i>5th Middlesex</i> |
| <i>Barbara A. L'Italien</i> | <i>Second Essex and Middlesex</i> |
| <i>Elizabeth A. Malia</i> | <i>11th Suffolk</i> |
| <i>Michael O. Moore</i> | <i>Second Worcester</i> |

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| <i>James J. O'Day</i> | <i>14th Worcester</i> |
| <i>Byron Rushing</i> | <i>9th Suffolk</i> |
| <i>Jose F. Tosado</i> | <i>9th Hampden</i> |
| <i>Steven Ultrino</i> | <i>33rd Middlesex</i> |
| <i>Chris Walsh</i> | <i>6th Middlesex</i> |

HOUSE No. 84

By Ms. Decker of Cambridge, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 84) of Marjorie C. Decker and others that the the Department of Transitional Assistance administer a rental and mortgage arrearage program for certain low-income households. Children, Families and Persons with Disabilities.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

**In the One Hundred and Ninetieth General Court
(2017-2018)**

An Act to further provide a rental arrearage program.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1 Chapter 18 of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after section 2B, as
2 appearing in the 2016 Official Edition, the following section:-

3 Section 2C: Subject to appropriation, the department of transitional assistance shall
4 administer a rental and mortgage arrearage program for households whose incomes are at or
5 below 130 per cent of the federal poverty limit and who are at risk of homelessness within the
6 next 12 months. For purposes of this program, eligible households shall include but not be
7 limited to families with children under the age of 21, elders, persons with disabilities, and
8 unaccompanied youth. Benefits under the arrearage program shall be made available to
9 households for the prevention of the loss of housing, the actual liability up to four times the
10 monthly rental or mortgage liability. In administering the program, the department shall
11 coordinate with the member agencies and offices of the Massachusetts interagency council on
12 housing and homelessness on behalf of eligible households served by the members so as to

- 13 streamline the application process, provide additional support services, and better promote
- 14 homelessness prevention and housing stability.