

SENATE No. 1883

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Adam G. Hinds

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 establishing a universal basic income pilot program.

PETITION OF:

NAME:

Adam G. Hinds

DISTRICT/ADDRESS:

*Berkshire, Hampshire, Franklin and
Hampden*

SENATE No. 1883

By Mr. Hinds, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 1883) of Adam G. Hinds for legislation to establish a universal basic income pilot program. Revenue.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

**In the One Hundred and Ninety-Second General Court
(2021-2022)**

An Act establishing a universal basic income pilot 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 SECTION 1. (a) Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, the
2 Department of Transitional Assistance (DTA) referred to henceforth as the “Department” shall,
3 within one year of the effective date of this act shall submit a Request for Proposal (RFP) to
4 establish and implement a public-private partnership with local businesses, non-profits, or
5 private foundations referred henceforth as “Funder” in order to study and implement a Universal
6 Basic Income pilot program.

7 (b) The pilot program shall include not less than 100 participants. When selecting
8 participants, the Department shall consider factors so that the participants are representative of
9 all demographics of the state, including but not limited to race, gender identity, sexual
10 orientation, and educational achievement. No more than half of the participants shall be from the
11 greater Boston area. At least 25% of participants shall be from a community with less than 500
12 persons per square mile. At least 40% of participants shall be from a Gateway City. The

13 members of the study shall otherwise be selected at random as anyone that qualified for benefits
14 offered by the Department within the last three years.

15 (c) Each individual participating in the pilot shall receive not less than \$1,000 per month
16 which shall be provided by a Funder. The Department shall analyze how a participant's qualify
17 of life changes over the course of a 2 year period. Participants who agree to participate in the
18 program shall submit to data collection by the Department.

19 (d) All participants shall remain anonymous to the general public unless the participant
20 signs a waiver agreeing for their identity to become public. Should the participant agree to allow
21 their identity be publicized, this information will not be released sooner than 1 year after the
22 completion of the study period. At any point during this period, the participant may rescind the
23 waiver.

24 (e) The stipend may not be used to purchase a controlled substance as defined in Section
25 31 of Chapter 94C of the General Laws. Participants shall have full authority to use the stipend
26 for the purchase of any other goods or services, or to conduct any other transactions at their
27 complete discretion.

28 (f) All administrative costs related to the distribution of funds, surveys, and data
29 collection shall be incurred by the Department of Transitional Assistance. They Department may
30 hire additional staff for the administration of this program. The Department may enter into a
31 contract with any third-party organization for the administration of this program.

32 (g) The Department of Transitional Assistance shall work with the Funder to develop
33 criteria regarding collected data and submit a report to the clerks of the house of representatives
34 and the senate, the chairs of the joint committee of children, families, and persons with

35 disabilities, the chairs of the joint committee on revenue, and the chairs of the house and senate
36 committees on ways & means no more than one year after the completion of the pilot program.
37 The report shall include information about how the funds were spent; the socioeconomic
38 background of the participants prior to entering into the study; how the participants' qualities of
39 life evolved over the period of time of the study; recommendations for permanent
40 implementation of this program on a larger scale.