

2019 – 2020 State Policy Priorities



An Act Relative to Fairness in Debt Collection

S. 578 and H. 919

Lead sponsors: Sen. Jamie Eldridge and Rep. Paul Brodeur

Protects consumers with debts by ensuring they can retain a basic level of earnings to pay for essential needs while they repay debts. Provides protections from unscrupulous practices of certain debt collectors by requiring that collectors provide evidence of the debt. Limits the additional fees and interest that collectors can charge after the judgment, and prohibits the arrest and imprisonment of a borrower who does not pay a judgment.

An Act Improving the Earned Income Credit for Healthier Families

S. 1646 and H. 2434

Lead sponsors: Sen. Jamie Eldridge and Rep. Marjorie Decker

Increases the state Earned Income Tax Credit from 23% to 50% of the value of the federal EITC for all eligible recipients to reward work, increase mobility, reduce inequality, and improve children's health.

An Act Creating a Child Savings Program

H. 1213

Lead sponsor: Rep. Sean Garballey

Directs the Massachusetts Educational Financing Authority to establish a college savings program for each eligible child born and issued a birth certificate in the Commonwealth.

An Act Regulating the Use of Credit Reports by Employers

S. 1042 and H. 1659

Lead sponsors: Sen. Michael Barrett and Rep. Elizabeth Malia

Prohibits employers from using a credit report as a criterion for employment. Prevents employers from requesting credit checks unless required to do so by state or federal law.

Proposal for a legislative amendment to the Constitution to provide resources for education and transportation through an additional tax on incomes in excess of one million dollars

S. 16 and H. 86

Lead sponsors: Sen. Jason Lewis and Rep. James O'Day

Amends the Constitution to provide resources for education and transportation through an additional tax on incomes above one million dollars.

An Act to Guarantee Debt-Free Public Higher Education

S. 744

Lead sponsor: Sen. Jamie Eldridge

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Provides free public higher education to all eligible students and all new graduates from a Massachusetts high school or GED program.

An Act Relative to Universal Basic Income

S. 84

Lead sponsor: Sen. Jamie Eldridge

Implements a pilot program to demonstrate the individual, family, and community economic impacts and state-level cost savings of a universal basic income. The pilot program will include 100 participants residing in each of three economically diverse cities or towns. At least one city or town shall be a rural community. Each individual participating in the program will receive \$1,000 per month per year for three years and agree to fully participate in the study and analysis plan of the universal basic income scheme.

An Act Promoting Financial Stability and Asset Development

S. 44

Lead sponsor: Sen. Jamie Eldridge

Establishes work program requirements that may be met by participation in a vocational educational program, including adult basic education, English for speakers of other languages, skills training, certificate programs, and higher education programs. The bill also mandates, among other things, that individuals must be informed of all vocational educational programs that can be accessed at little or no cost to the individual.