



Everyone Needs ID: An Act to Provide Identification to Homeless Youth and Families

Senate Bill 2043 and House Bill 3066

Sponsored by Senator Harriette Chandler and Representative Kay Khan

Lead Sponsors: Senator Harriette Chandler and Representative Kay Khan

Senate Cosponsors: Senators Will Brownsberger, Jo Comerford, Julian Cyr, Sal DiDomenico, Jamie Eldridge, Cindy Friedman, Pat Jehlen, Jason Lewis, Mike Moore, and Becca Rausch **House Cosponsors:** Representatives Ruth Balsler, Natalie Blais, Daniel Carey, Mike Connolly, Dan Donahue, Marjorie Decker, Mindy Domb, Carolyn Dykema, Nika Elugardo, Tricia Farley-Bouvier, Sean Garballey, Carmine Gentile, Carlos González, Tami Gouveia, James Hawkins, Kevin Honan, Mary Keefe, David LeBoeuf, Jack Patrick Lewis, David Linsky, Adrian Madaro, Liz Malia, Paul Mark, Paul McMurtry, Liz Miranda, Jim O'Day, Elizabeth Poirier, Denise Provost, Dave Rogers, Lindsay Sabadosa, Jon Santiago, Tom Stanley, José Tosado, Steve Ultino, Aaron Vega, and Bud Williams

Bill History: Both Senate Bill 2043 and House Bill 3066 were refiled in January 2019, and were reported out favorably by the Joint Committee on Transportation in November 2019. S. 2043 was sent to the Senate Committee on Ways and Means, and may come up for a vote by the full Senate soon. H. 3066 was sent to the Joint Committee on Health Care Financing, and is awaiting action. Last session, the bill (Senate Bill 2568) passed the Senate unanimously.

Importance of This Legislation: Obtaining a state identification card is a critical first step for youth and adults experiencing homelessness to accomplish typical life tasks and access opportunities. ID is required for a broad range of life activities, such as:

- Applying for jobs
- Enrolling in education programs
- Getting a library card
- Picking up a package from the post office
- Opening financial accounts
- Entering certain government buildings
- Accessing services
- Interacting with law enforcement

Unfortunately, there are significant barriers to accessing IDs for people experiencing homelessness, with some service providers estimating that half of their program participants lack identification cards.¹

With the implementation of the REAL ID Act across the country, states have recognized the need for an alternative identification card accessible to people experiencing homelessness, especially youth, who may lack the documentation necessary to obtain a REAL ID-compliant card. Thirteen other states currently offer free or reduced fee cards for individuals experiencing homelessness, and a growing number offer clear alternative criteria for individuals experiencing homelessness who cannot demonstrate proof of address.²

It is time for Massachusetts to step up and join those states that are addressing this issues. This bill would:

- Establish a fee waiver process for youth and adults experiencing homelessness seeking standard Mass IDs
- Create a process for individuals experiencing homelessness to apply for standard Mass IDs if they cannot meet the existing criteria by allowing ID applicants who are experiencing homelessness to submit residency documentation from providers of homelessness services and state agencies under the Executive Office of Health and Human Services (EOHHS)
- Expand upon the Registry of Motor Vehicles' efforts to better serve people experiencing homelessness³

¹ Hussey, H. (2015). Expanding ID Card Access for LGBT Homeless Youth. Center for American Progress.

<https://www.americanprogress.org/issues/lgbt/reports/2015/10/01/122044/expanding-id-card-access-for-lgbt-homeless-youth/>

² Mirza, S., Soto, S. and Rooney, C. (2016). State ID Card Policies for LGBTQ Youths Experiencing Homelessness. Center for American Progress.

<https://www.americanprogress.org/issues/lgbt/reports/2016/09/28/144928/state-id-card-policies-for-lgbtq-youths-experiencing-homelessness/>

³ See <https://www.mass.gov/guides/rmv-real-id-info-center#homeless-individuals->

**An Act to Provide Identification to Homeless Youth and Families Organizational Endorsers
(As of February 2020)**

ACT UP/Boston
Action for Boston Community Development, Inc.
Action Together Massachusetts
Advocacy Network to End Family Homelessness
AIDS Action/Fenway Health
AIDS Project Worcester
Allston Brighton Health Collaborative
Arise for Social Justice
Boston Area Rape Crisis Center
Boston Center for Independent Living
Bridge Over Troubled Waters
Central West Justice Center
Children's League of Massachusetts
Citizens for Juvenile Justice
Citizens' Housing and Planning Association
City Mission
City of Worcester Department of Health and Human Services
City of Worcester Human Rights Commission
Coastline
Community Action Agency of Somerville, Inc.
Cooperative Metropolitan Ministries
DIAL/SELF Youth & Community Services
Disability Policy Consortium
Father Bill's & MainSpring
First Church Shelter
Gates of Hope
Hearts of Hope, Inc.
Homeless Empowerment Project/Spare Change News
Homeless Prevention Council
HomeStart, Inc.
Horizons for Homeless Children
HousingWorks, Inc.
Justice Resource Institute
LUK, Inc.
Martin Richard Institute for Social Justice
Massachusetts Appleseed Center for Law and Justice
Massachusetts Coalition for the Homeless
Massachusetts Commission on LGBTQ Youth
Massachusetts Fair Housing Center
Massachusetts Housing & Shelter Alliance
Massachusetts Law Reform Institute
MassEquality
National Association of Social Workers- Massachusetts Chapter
Northeast Justice Center
One Family
On with Living and Learning (OWLL)
Pax Christi of Beverly
Pennies for Poverty: 2 Cents 4 Change
Poor People's United Fund
Roca
Rosie's Place
School on Wheels of Massachusetts
Southbridge Community Connections
Stavros
Steps 2 Solutions, Inc.
Tapestry Health Systems
The Haven Project
The Health Foundation of Central Massachusetts
United Way of Hampshire County
Wayside Youth & Family Support
Western Massachusetts Network to End Homelessness
Y2Y Network

Please actively support passage of the #EveryoneNeedsID Mass ID Access bill!

State Representatives and Senators: If you have not cosponsored the bill yet, please sign on to Senate Bill 2043 to increase access for people experiencing homelessness to standard Mass IDs.

For more information, please go to www.mahomeless.org/advocacy or contact Kelly Turley (kelly@mahomeless.org or 781-595-7570 x17) at the Massachusetts Coalition for the Homeless.



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