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 Julian Cyr, Jamie Eldridge, Jason Lewis, and Becca Rausch

House Cosponsors: Representatives Ruth Balser, Mike Connolly, Carolyn Dykema, Tricia Farley-Bouvier, Sean Garballey, Carmine Gentile, Carlos González, Tami Gouveia, James Hawkins, Kevin Honan, David LeBoeuf, Adrian Madaro, David Rogers, Lindsay Sabadosa, Thomas Stanley, José Tosado, and Aaron Vega

Bill History: Both Senate Bill 2043 and House Bill 3066 were refiled in January 2019, and have been assigned to the committee on Transportation. The bills have not been scheduled to be heard yet. Last session, the bill (Senate Bill 2568) passed the Senate unanimously, but did not make it out of the House Committee on Ways and Means.

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 clients 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 issue. An Act to Provide Identification to Homeless Youth and Families 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 homelessness ³

(September 25, 2019; continued on back)

https://www.americanprogress.org/issues/lgbt/reports/2015/10/01/123044/expanding-id-card-access-for-lgbt-homeless-youth/


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

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
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
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
Pax Christi of Beverly
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
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.