

OFFERED BY COUNCILORS ANNISSA ESSAIBI-GEORGE, AYANNA PRESSLEY
Campbell, Wu, Baker, Ciommo, Flaherty, LaMattina, Jackson, Linean, McCarthy, O'Malley, and Zakim



CITY OF BOSTON
IN CITY COUNCIL

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT S257/HD3564 OF AN
ACT PROVIDING IMMEDIATE CHILD CARE
ASSISTANCE TO HOMELESS FAMILIES

WHEREAS: Senator Linda Dorcea Forry filed Senate Bill S257 and Representative Marjorie Decker filed HD3564 "Act Providing Immediate Child Care Assistance to Homeless Families, that would reinstate a previous policy from 2007 allowing families living in any and all types of homeless shelters to be deemed eligible to access childcare as soon as they enter a shelter and would eliminate red tape so that homeless children in Massachusetts can qualify for subsidized early education and school aged care, and;

WHEREAS: More than 3,000 Children Ages 0-5 currently live in shelters in Massachusetts, and more than a third of those children are sheltered in the city of Boston, and;

WHEREAS: Horizons for Homeless Children surveyed 455 families sheltered in Boston, 65% of children in those families were ages 0-5 and the average age of all children in shelter in Boston was just 19 months, and;

WHEREAS: In that same study half of unemployed adults in shelter identified access to and affordability of childcare as a barrier to their gaining employment, and;

WHEREAS: Access to quality early education and care is an important part of closing the achievement gap and supporting student's long term academic and social emotional success, and;

WHEREAS: The City of Boston has a responsibility to support the stability and well-being of all families. THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED: That the Boston City Council support this state legislation and urges the Massachusetts Education Committee, House Speaker, Senate President and the State Legislature to move this bill forward to passage during this legislative session, and urges Governor Charles Baker to sign it into law.

Filed in City Council: March 15, 2017