

# HOUSE . . . . . No. 1860

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By Mr. Walsh of Boston, petition of Martin J. Walsh and Timothy J. Toomey, Jr. for legislation to provide for a living wage for certain human services workers. Labor and Workforce Development.

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## The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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In the Year Two Thousand and Seven.

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AN ACT TO PROVIDE A LIVING WAGE TO ALL EMPLOYEES OF PROVIDERS THAT DELIVER SOCIAL SERVICES OR CHILD CARE UNDER CONTRACT OR SUBCONTRACT WITH THE COMMONWEALTH.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:*

- 1 Chapter 29 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 1998 Official  
2 Edition, is hereby amended by adding the following four sections:—  
3 Section 72. As used in this section and sections 73, 74 and 75, the  
4 following words shall have the following meanings:  
5 “Provider”, any organization that delivers child care or social  
6 services under a contract or subcontract with the Commonwealth,  
7 whereas twenty-five percent of their total operating budget is pro-  
8 vided by the Commonwealth.  
9 “Employee”, any employee paid in whole or part by money of the  
10 Commonwealth working for a provider. This shall include contin-  
11 gent fees and fees for service employees.  
12 “Comprehensive Health Care Insurance”, shall include at least the  
13 following medically necessary services:— reasonably comprehen-  
14 sive physician services, inpatient and outpatient hospital services,  
15 emergency health services, the full range of effective clinical pre-  
16 ventive care and prescription drugs administered on an outpatient  
17 basis.  
18 Section 73. All departments or agencies of the Commonwealth  
19 awarding contracts or subcontracts to providers shall notify such  
20 providers of the provisions of sections 74 and 75. Any provider sub-  
21 mitting a bid for a contract or subcontract shall be notified of the  
22 provisions of sections 74 and 75.  
23 Section 74. All providers shall pay covered employees no less  
24 than a living wage. Agencies and departments of the Commonwealth

25 shall ensure that said providers are compensated for this living wage.  
26 The living wage shall be calculated on an hourly basis and shall not  
27 be less than \$12.89 from July 1, 2001 and shall be recalculated  
28 annually as of July first to the hourly rate which at 40 hours of work  
29 a week for 50 weeks a year would be equal to but no less than 135  
30 percent of the poverty threshold for a family of four as published by  
31 the United States Department of Health and Human Services or in  
32 proportion to the increase at the immediately preceding December  
33 thirty-first over the year earlier level of the annual average consumer  
34 price index of all urban consumers (CPI-U) as published by the  
35 bureau of labor statistics, United States Department of Labor applied  
36 to \$12.89, or whichever the foregoing is higher.

37 Section 75. If a provider offers employees comprehensive health  
38 insurance, the provider's required living wage shall be calculated on  
39 an hourly basis and shall not be less than \$11.89 from July 1, 2001  
40 and shall be recalculated annually as of July first to the hourly rate  
41 which at 40 hours of work a week for 50 weeks a year would be  
42 equal to but no less than 135 percent of the poverty threshold for a  
43 family of four as published by the United States Department of  
44 Health and Human Services.

45 All providers offering comprehensive health insurance shall pay  
46 at least 80 percent of the comprehensive health insurance plans  
47 addressed under this section.

48 Agencies and departments of the Commonwealth shall ensure that  
49 said providers are compensated for this living wage and comprehen-  
50 sive health insurance costs.