

Anti-Hunger/Anti-Poverty Priority Legislation - 2025/2026 Session

Docket #//link	Lead Sponsors	Nutrition related bills	Contacts/Coalition
H. 196 S. 167	Rep Arena de Rosa Sen Moore	<i>Act to maximize participation in federal nutrition programs/improve customer service</i> (new) Summary: The bill requires EOHHS to submit a report to Legislature on resources (staffing and IT) that DTA needs to improve SNAP and timely customer service, including sufficient staff to handle required interviews and timely process case actions.	Pat Baker, MLRI pbaker@mlri.org Vicky Negus, MLRI vnegus@mlri.org
H. 1466 S.939	Rep Vargas Sen Lovely	<i>Act establishing hunger free campus initiative</i> (refile) Summary: The bill is a refile led by the Hunger Free Campus Coalition , providing a roadmap for the Dept of Higher Ed to support 2 & 4-year public colleges and minority-serving institutions in creating/expanding successful hunger relief initiatives. Bill includes new language to tap funding through the Fair Share Act, which currently funds free school meals, free community college and related programs.	Hunger Free Campus Coalition HungerFreeCampusMA.org Kate Adams, GBFB kadams@gbfb.org Laura Sylvester, FBWM lauras@foodbankwma.org Pat Baker, MLRI pbaker@mlri.org State House Lobby Day: March 7th 10 AM
H. 222 S. 104	Reps Domb and Vargas Sen Comerford	<i>An Act relative to an agricultural healthy incentives program</i> (refile) Summary: Bill is a refile of the Mass Food Systems Collaborative HIP initiative. It would statutorily authorize HIP under the MA General Laws.	Mass Food Systems Collaborative MAfoodsystem.org Becca Miller, MFSC rebecca@mafoodsystem.org Campaign meeting: Feb 27th, 10 AM Register HERE .
H. 254 S. 147	Rep. Kerans Sen. Robyn Kennedy	<i>Act to Replace Stolen Benefits</i> (new) Summary: This bill would require DTA to replace benefits stolen by criminal rings through skimming or phishing (currently not	Betsy Gwin, MLRI bgwin@mlri.org Vicky Negus, MLRI vnegus@mlri.org

		reimbursed by federal funds).	
Docket #/link	Lead Sponsors	Cash Assistance related bills	
H. 214 S. 118	Rep. Decker Sen. DiDomenico	<i>Act to Lift Kids Out of Deep Poverty</i> (refile) Summary: Bill is a re-file of Lift Our Kids Coalition bills. This bill would raise grants by 20% until they reach 50% FPL and then require annual cost of living adjustment (COLA).	Lift Our Kids, LiftOurKidsMA.org Deborah Harris, MLRI, dharris@mlri.org Naomi Meyer, GBLS, nmeyer@gbls.org
H. 210 S. 399	Rep. Cruz Rep. Arriaga Sen. Jason Lewis	<i>Act to promote equity in school attendance requirements</i> (new) Summary: would repeal the “Learnfare” law that unfairly imposes sanctions on children on TAFDC for chronic school absences.	Betsy Gwin, MLRI, bgwin@mlri.org Tasmiah Ahmad, MLRI, tahmad@mlri.org
H. 201 S. 110	Rep. Barber Rep. Armini Sen. Creem	<i>Act to bring child support home</i> (new) Summary: Bill would require 100% of child support paid for a child who currently or previously received TAFDC to be paid directly to the family, instead of government, and would expand good cause reasons for not cooperating with child support to include best interests of the child	Deborah Harris, MLRI, dharris@mlri.org
H. 272 S. 171	Rep. Montaña Sen. Rausch	<i>Act to Protect Maternal Health</i> (new - Montaña) <i>Act to Support Maternal Health</i> (new - Rausch) Summary: Bill would expand eligibility for pregnant people to receive TAFDC upon verification of pregnancy (current line item language restricts eligibility to third trimester).	Betsy Gwin, MLRI, bgwin@mlri.org