**Homeless Bill of Rights:**

1. Massachusetts H1129
   1. Summary of the Bill:

The Bill would enact the Homeless Bill of Rights in the state of Massachusetts. This would make it illegal to deny the right of an individual to move freely through public space simply on behalf of their homelessness. Those experiencing homelessness must be treated equally by state agencies, potential employers, healthcare providers, and other services.[[1]](#footnote-1)

* 1. How it will impact people experiencing homelessness:
     1. Will give the same rights to:
        1. Move freely in public spaces
        2. Not face discrimination while seeking employment
        3. Right to emergency medical care
        4. Right to vote
        5. Right to protect personal identification information
        6. Right to privacy in his or her personal property
  2. Limitations
     1. There is no enforcement mechanism

**Child Care Assistance:**

1. Massachusetts H79
   1. Summary of the Bill:

Pertaining to homeless families, this Bill requires that families housed in shelters must be entitled to homeless child care assistance vouchers at any time. Families living in shelters must be eligible for child care full-time, regardless of income.[[2]](#footnote-2)

* 1. How it will impact people experiencing homelessness:
     1. Will greatly impact families with young children to receive safe child care
  2. Limitations:
     1. This voucher is only applicable to families living in the shelter system
     2. Voucher only last 12 months

**Nutrition:**

1. Massachusetts H2003
   1. Summary of the Bill:

This Act would ensure that homeless women and children living in hotels and motels in a number of regions in Western MA have access to improved nutrition. In addition, a working group will be developed, comprised of representatives from numerous area schools, agencies, and governmental departments, that will aim to develop the best ways to provide this nutrition. Additionally, they will be responsible for creating after-school programs at schools attended by homeless children, such as homework nights.[[3]](#footnote-3)

* 1. How it will impact people experiencing homelessness:
     1. Will provide access to nutritional meals to homeless families living it hotels or motels in Western Massachusetts (Franklin, Hampshire, Hampden, Berkshire) such as fresh fruit and vegetables
     2. Will create a “family homework night” which will help homeless kids stay on academic track
  2. Limitations:
     1. Pilot program is only targeting families living in hotels or motels
     2. Pilot program is limited to families living in Western Massachusetts

1. MA - H1129 | TrackBill. (2015, December 17). Retrieved August 02, 2016, from https://trackbill.com/bill/ma-h1129-an-act-providing-a-homeless-bill-of-rights/1158624/ [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. The 189th General Court of The Commonwealth of Massachusetts. (n.d.). Retrieved August 02, 2016, from https://malegislature.gov/Bills/BillHtml/142981?generalCourtId=12 [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. The 189th General Court of The Commonwealth of Massachusetts. (2015, January 14). Retrieved August 02, 2016, from https://malegislature.gov/Bills/BillHtml/142046?generalCourtId=12 [↑](#footnote-ref-3)