



Massachusetts Partnership for Infants and Toddlers Special Meeting: Legislative Roundup

Wednesday, March 3, 2-3:30 pm
Location: Virtual on Zoom

Mission statement:

Massachusetts Partnership for Infants and Toddlers (MPIT) is a collaborative public/private network focused on improving outcomes for infants and toddlers and engaging families to improve systems of support.

Meeting desired outcomes:

Partners gain understanding of key bills filed in the Massachusetts Legislature 2021-2022 session, and their impact on infants and toddlers and their families.

Bills presented:

1-4 presented by Strategies for Children.

For information contact Marisa Fear, mfear@strategiesforchildren.org

1. An Act Providing Affordable and Accessible High Quality Early Education and Care to Promote Child Development and Well-Being and Support the Economy in the Commonwealth - Senator Lewis and Senator Moran and Rep. Gordon and Rep. Madaro ([HD.1960](#) and [SD.1307](#))

Description: This bill would establish a universal system of affordable, high-quality early education and child care for all Massachusetts families, over a 5-year timeline. For more info, visit CommonStartMA.org

2. An Act Relative to High Quality Early Childhood Education - Rep. Peisch ([HD.3638](#))

Description: This bill would make a number of quality improvements to the early childhood education system through subsidized rate reform, initiatives for the workforce, plan for preschool expansion, early childhood mental health and addressing suspension and expulsion in early childhood programs.

3. An Act Ensuring High Quality Pre-Kindergarten Education - Senator DiDomenico ([SD.2264](#))

Description: This bill would create a grant program to support the continued implementation of high-quality preschool programs within our mixed delivery system, modeled after the PEG and CPPI grant programs, for preschool-age children (between the ages of 2 years and 9 months to kindergarten eligible).

4. An Act Placing a Healthy Bet on Universal Early Education and Care - Rep. Vargas and Rep. Miranda ([HD.4069](#))

Description: Would establish an excise tax on sugar beverages and products where all revenue would be deposited into an early education and care provider funding program. In addition, no less than sixty percent of all sports wagering revenue would be deposited into the same funding program.

5-6 presented by Massachusetts Immigrant and Refugee Advocacy Coalition.
For information contact Margalit Tepper, mtepper@miracoalition.org

5. An Act Providing a Guaranteed Minimum Income to all Families ([SD. 140](#), [HD.1992](#))

Description: Would create a guaranteed minimum income (GMI) to ensure that everyone can attain a basic standard of living. Enhancing EITC to cover more households and deliver increased benefits. Increase state match rate from 30% to 50%. Establish minimum 2,400 credit for extremely low income households. Extend the GMI to middle income families who are currently eligible (up to 75K). Extend tax credit to groups of people who are usually left out (immigrant families, unpaid caregivers, disability, college students, more frequent payments and communications outreach campaign through VITA sites. Survey found 70% public support for "should immigrant families receiving public benefits if they work?"

6. An Act Relative to Language Access and Inclusion – Senator DiDomenico, Rep. Madaro ([SD. 2251](#)/[HD. 3674](#))

Description: Would standardize and enforce language access in state agencies, focusing on nine essential state agencies, expanding to include executive offices in coming years. The initial nine include EEC, DESE, DPH, and DCF. Agencies must develop language access plan, populations served and needs in community. Must create a Language Access Coordinator to ensure compliance. Advisory Board would submit biannual report to Legislature. MA Appleseed Justice Center, released report on language access that was instrumental in coalition and bill filing.

Other bills supported by MPIT partners, submitted after March 3:

An Act Improving Child Eye Health – Representative Barber, Senator Michael Moore. ([H.2231](#), [S.136](#))

Additional information:

Reach Out and Read. For more info contact Alex Chu, alex.chu@reachoutandread.org

Reach Out and Read FY22 budget amendment. ROR currently works in pediatric medical clinics to support early literacy 6mo-5 years. This amendment would expand to birth. There are three times as many well child visits between birth and six months.