



Legislation Summary:

An Act providing a homeless bill of rights

Initial bill number: [H695](#) (Bill numbers will change as legislation proceeds.)

Sponsor: Rep. William Pignatelli

The bill is attempting to make sure that homeless individuals are given the same rights, privileges and access to public services as other persons in the community and not discriminated against due to lack of or loss of housing.

There have been efforts to limit access and occupancy of public parks such as Boston Common, difficulty getting medical care, and other forms of discrimination in public facilities and private businesses. Often homeless individuals use the address of a shelter or social service organization while they are homeless, and this should not further complicate their life circumstances and exclude them from employment or other public services. The League also should continue to encourage voting by all citizens and encourage civic participation during episodes of homelessness.

League position: LWVUS Principles: “The League of Women Voters believes that every citizen should be protected in the right to vote; that every person should have access to free public education that provides equal opportunity for all; and that no person or group should suffer legal, economic or administrative discrimination.”