

HOUSE No. 102

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Marc T. Lombardo

To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in General Court assembled:

The undersigned legislators and/or citizens respectfully petition for the adoption of the accompanying bill:

An Act establishing missing child trust fund.

PETITION OF:

NAME:

DISTRICT/ADDRESS:

Marc T. Lombardo

22nd Middlesex

Shaunna L. O'Connell

3rd Bristol

HOUSE No. 102

By Mr. Lombardo of Billerica, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 102) of Marc T. Lombardo and Shaunna L. O'Connell relative to establishing a missing child trust fund within the Department of Children and Families. Children, Families and Persons with Disabilities.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

**In the One Hundred and Eighty-Ninth General Court
(2015-2016)**

An Act establishing missing child trust fund.

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

1 SECTION 1. To provide for certain costs associated with the compensation of private
2 investigators aiding in the search for missing children under the custody of the department of
3 children and families, the sum set forth in section 2E is hereby appropriated from the General
4 Fund to the trust fund named within the item and established pursuant to this act.

5 SECTION 2E.

6 Department of Children and Families

7 4800-XXXX For an operating transfer to the Missing Children Investigation Trust Fund
8 established pursuant to section 2LLLL of chapter 29 of the General Laws.....\$200,000.

9 SECTION 3. Section 3 of chapter 18B of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2012
10 Official Edition, is hereby amended by adding the following subsection:-

11 (d) The department may compensate private investigators licensed pursuant to sections
12 22 to 30, inclusive, of chapter 147 to aid in the search for any child who, while under the custody
13 of the department, went missing or whose current whereabouts are unaccounted for. For
14 purposes of the subsection “child” shall mean a person under the age of 18. The department shall
15 compensate private investigators at a rate of \$50 per hour for services rendered pursuant to this
16 subsection. The department may promulgate rules and regulations necessary for the
17 implementation of this subsection.

18 SECTION 4. Chapter 29 of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after
19 section 2KKKK the following section:-

20 Section 2LLLL. There shall be established and set up on the books of the commonwealth
21 a separate fund to be known as the Missing Children Investigation Trust Fund, which shall be
22 administered by the commissioner of the department of children and families. Funds from the
23 trust fund shall be expended to hire private investigators licensed pursuant to sections 22 to 30,
24 inclusive, of chapter 147 to search for missing children pursuant to subsection (d) of section 3 of
25 chapter 18B. Amounts credited to the trust fund shall not be subject to further appropriation. The
26 secretary shall report, on or before December 31 of each year, to the house and senate
27 committees on ways and means on expenditure activity within the trust fund.