

HOUSE No. 1161

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Kate Hogan

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 to protect MassHealth applicants facing undue hardship.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:
<i>Kate Hogan</i>	<i>3rd Middlesex</i>
<i>Angelo J. Puppolo, Jr.</i>	<i>12th Hampden</i>
<i>Harriette L. Chandler</i>	<i>First Worcester</i>
<i>Brian W. Murray</i>	<i>10th Worcester</i>
<i>Bradford Hill</i>	<i>4th Essex</i>
<i>Marjorie C. Decker</i>	<i>25th Middlesex</i>
<i>Steven Ultrino</i>	<i>33rd Middlesex</i>
<i>Kay Khan</i>	<i>11th Middlesex</i>
<i>Bud L. Williams</i>	<i>11th Hampden</i>
<i>David F. DeCoste</i>	<i>5th Plymouth</i>
<i>James B. Eldridge</i>	<i>Middlesex and Worcester</i>
<i>David M. Rogers</i>	<i>24th Middlesex</i>
<i>Thomas M. Stanley</i>	<i>9th Middlesex</i>
<i>Tackey Chan</i>	<i>2nd Norfolk</i>
<i>Natalie M. Higgins</i>	<i>4th Worcester</i>
<i>Denise Provost</i>	<i>27th Middlesex</i>
<i>Sean Garballey</i>	<i>23rd Middlesex</i>
<i>James K. Hawkins</i>	<i>2nd Bristol</i>

Chynah Tyler

7th Suffolk

William J. Driscoll, Jr.

7th Norfolk

HOUSE No. 1161

By Ms. Hogan of Stow, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 1161) of Kate Hogan and others for legislation to establish criteria for MassHealth hardship waivers. Health Care Financing.

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION
SEE HOUSE, NO. 2988 OF 2017-2018.]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

**In the One Hundred and Ninety-First General Court
(2019-2020)**

An Act to protect MassHealth applicants facing undue hardship.

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. Chapter 118E of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2016 Official
2 Edition, is hereby amended by inserting after section 28 the following section:—

3 Section 28A. A nursing facility resident may claim undue hardship in order to eliminate
4 the period of ineligibility. In accordance with P.L. 109-171 amending Section 1917(c)(2)(D) of
5 the Social Security Act, the division shall establish procedures for determining whether undue
6 hardship exists as a result of the imposition of a period of ineligibility, which shall include
7 written notice to said individual that an undue hardship exception exists, a timely process for
8 determining whether an undue hardship waiver shall be granted and an opportunity to appeal an
9 adverse determination. An individual may request an undue hardship waiver within 90 days
10 after the date of the final decision to impose a period of ineligibility, including judicial appeals.

11 (a) There shall be a rebuttable presumption that an institutionalized individual is eligible
12 for an undue hardship waiver if the individual provides documentation that all of the following
13 criteria are met:

14 1) the individual has insufficient available resources, excluding the community spouse
15 resource allowance, to provide medical care, food, shelter, clothing and other necessities of life
16 such that the individual would be at risk of serious deprivation or harm;

17 2) the individual has made reasonable attempts to retrieve the transferred resources or
18 receives adequate compensation;

19 3) there is no available less costly alternative to institutional care that would meet the
20 individual's care needs; and

21 4) the period of ineligibility will not be a mere inconvenience to the applicant but rather
22 will create a situation that would subject the applicant to risk of serious deprivation.

23 (b) A nursing facility need not express an intent to discharge the individual for
24 nonpayment in order for a hardship waiver to be granted.

25 (c) The division shall promulgate regulations incorporating these criteria for
26 consideration of an undue hardship waiver request.