

HOUSE No. 1510

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Joan Meschino

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 accelerate a child’s reunification with family members.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:
<i>Joan Meschino</i>	<i>3rd Plymouth</i>
<i>Mindy Domb</i>	<i>3rd Hampshire</i>
<i>Colleen M. Garry</i>	<i>36th Middlesex</i>
<i>Carlos Gonzalez</i>	<i>10th Hampden</i>
<i>Stephan Hay</i>	<i>3rd Worcester</i>
<i>Kay Khan</i>	<i>11th Middlesex</i>
<i>Kathleen R. LaNatra</i>	<i>12th Plymouth</i>
<i>Tram T. Nguyen</i>	<i>18th Essex</i>
<i>Bud L. Williams</i>	<i>11th Hampden</i>

HOUSE No. 1510

By Ms. Meschino of Hull, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 1510) of Joan Meschino and others for legislation to expedite the reunification of children under temporary custody with family members. The Judiciary.

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION
SEE HOUSE, NO. 3106 OF 2017-2018.]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

An Act to accelerate a child’s reunification with family members.

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 119 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2016 Official Edition,
2 is hereby amended by inserting, after section 25, the following new section:-

3 Section 25A. Any time after granting temporary custody of a child to the department, the
4 court may review and revise that order sua sponte to allow for the child to be placed in the
5 custody of a parent, guardian, custodian, or a suitable third party. No sooner than 60 days after
6 the filing of the care and protection petition under section 24, any party may file a motion
7 requesting such a review. If the party alleges that there has been a material change in
8 circumstances, the court shall take evidence on the issue to determine whether a modification of
9 the order is warranted.