

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 157**

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**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

PRESENTED BY:

*James J. O'Day*

*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 regarding background checks on foster parents.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:
<i>James J. O'Day</i>	<i>14th Worcester</i>
<i>Sean Garballey</i>	<i>23rd Middlesex</i>
<i>Denise C. Garlick</i>	<i>13th Norfolk</i>
<i>Paul McMurtry</i>	<i>11th Norfolk</i>
<i>David M. Rogers</i>	<i>24th Middlesex</i>

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By Mr. O'Day of West Boylston, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 157) of James J. O'Day and others relative to the reporting of foster parents found not to be responsible for abuse or neglect of children. Children, Families and Persons with Disabilities.

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**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

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**In the One Hundred and Ninety-First General Court  
(2019-2020)**  
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An Act regarding background checks on foster parents.

*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. Section 51F of Chapter 119 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2016  
2 Official Edition, is hereby amended by inserting after the third paragraph the following  
3 paragraph: -

4           DCF Background Record Check Reports of Central Registry Records on a foster parent  
5 consisting exclusively of 51A reports determined to be “invalid,” “unsupported,” or by some  
6 other designation conclude that the foster parents was not found to be responsible for abuse or  
7 neglect of a child, shall be reported to the hiring authority as “no record.” Nothing in this section  
8 shall prevent the Department from maintaining and using this data in investigating future 51A  
9 reports.