

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 183**

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**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

PRESENTED BY:

*Christine P. Barber and David M. Rogers*

*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 further family-centered child support.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	DATE ADDED:
<i>Christine P. Barber</i>	<i>34th Middlesex</i>	<i>2/5/2021</i>
<i>David M. Rogers</i>	<i>24th Middlesex</i>	<i>2/25/2021</i>
<i>David Henry Argosky LeBoeuf</i>	<i>17th Worcester</i>	<i>2/9/2021</i>
<i>Marcos A. Devers</i>	<i>16th Essex</i>	<i>2/16/2021</i>
<i>Lindsay N. Sabadosa</i>	<i>1st Hampshire</i>	<i>2/18/2021</i>
<i>James K. Hawkins</i>	<i>2nd Bristol</i>	<i>2/26/2021</i>
<i>Tricia Farley-Bouvier</i>	<i>3rd Berkshire</i>	<i>2/26/2021</i>

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 183**

By Representatives Barber of Somerville and Rogers of Cambridge, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 183) of Christine P. Barber, David M. Rogers and others relative to child support determinations and payments. Children, Families and Persons with Disabilities.

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

**In the One Hundred and Ninety-Second General Court  
(2021-2022)**

An Act to further family-centered child support.

*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 18 of the general laws is hereby amended by striking section 18A  
2 and inserting in place thereof the following new section:--

3 Section 18A. (a)(1). The department shall impose the sanction required by federal law on  
4 any recipient of public assistance funded under Title IV-A of the Social Security Act who,  
5 without good cause, does not cooperate with the IV-D agency specified in chapter 119A to  
6 establish paternity or to establish, modify, or enforce a child support order on behalf of a child  
7 for whom the recipient receives such public assistance.

8 (2) The department shall determine that a recipient has good cause for not  
9 cooperating with the IV-D agency for purposes of this section if:

10 (A) The child was conceived as a result of incest or rape;

11 (B) Proceedings for the adoption of the child are pending or under consideration;

12 (C) Cooperation risks discouraging the noncustodial parent or other relatives of the  
13 child from maintaining a relationship with the child or providing emotional or other support;

14 (D) Cooperation risks physical or emotional harm to the child or the relative with  
15 whom the child resides; or

16 (E) Cooperation is otherwise not in the child's best interest.

17 SECTION 2. Section 2 of chapter 118 of the general laws is hereby amended by inserting  
18 at the end of the first paragraph the following:- Child support collected on behalf of a recipient  
19 of benefits under this chapter shall be paid to the family. In determining the family's countable  
20 income, the department shall disregard the first \$500 per month in child support paid to the  
21 family.

22 SECTION 3. Section 2 of chapter 119A of the general laws is hereby amended by adding  
23 at the end of subsection (a) the following:- The IV-D agency shall provide paternity only  
24 services in an intrastate case upon the request of an individual who is not required to cooperate  
25 with the IV-D agency to establish paternity or to establish, modify, or enforce a child support  
26 order.