

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 2253**

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**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

PRESENTED BY:

***James M. Cantwell***

*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 relative to visitation rights of grandparents.**

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:
<i>James M. Cantwell</i>	<i>4th Plymouth</i>
<i>Thomas J. Calter</i>	<i>12th Plymouth</i>
<i>Josh S. Cutler</i>	<i>6th Plymouth</i>
<i>Michael S. Day</i>	<i>31st Middlesex</i>
<i>Michelle M. DuBois</i>	<i>10th Plymouth</i>
<i>Barbara A. L'Italien</i>	<i>Second Essex and Middlesex</i>
<i>James R. Miceli</i>	<i>19th Middlesex</i>
<i>Mathew Muratore</i>	<i>1st Plymouth</i>
<i>Patrick M. O'Connor</i>	<i>Plymouth and Norfolk</i>
<i>Richard J. Ross</i>	<i>Norfolk, Bristol and Middlesex</i>
<i>Alan Silvia</i>	<i>7th Bristol</i>
<i>Aaron Vega</i>	<i>5th Hampden</i>

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By Mr. Cantwell of Marshfield, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 2253) of James M. Cantwell and others relative to visitation rights of grandparents. The Judiciary.

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**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

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**In the One Hundred and Ninetieth General Court  
(2017-2018)**  
\_\_\_\_\_

An Act relative to visitation rights of grandparents.

*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 39D of Chapter 119 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2014  
2 Official Edition, is hereby amended by inserting after the word “court.”, in line 19, the following  
3 sentence:-

4           Where the state has custody of a minor or a court has awarded temporary guardianship of  
5 a minor to a non-parent, the court may consider whether the minor has a preexisting relationship  
6 with a grandparent in determining if visitation rights would be in the best interest of the child;  
7 provided, however, that such preexisting relationship shall not be a necessity for awarding said  
8 visitation rights.