

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 2802**

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**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

PRESENTED BY:

***James J. O'Day***

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*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>Donald R. Berthiaume, Jr.</i>	<i>5th Worcester</i>
<i>James M. Cantwell</i>	<i>4th Plymouth</i>
<i>Marjorie C. Decker</i>	<i>25th Middlesex</i>
<i>Daniel M. Donahue</i>	<i>16th Worcester</i>
<i>Tricia Farley-Bouvier</i>	<i>3rd Berkshire</i>
<i>Kimberly N. Ferguson</i>	<i>1st Worcester</i>
<i>Mary S. Keefe</i>	<i>15th Worcester</i>
<i>Kay Khan</i>	<i>11th Middlesex</i>
<i>John J. Mahoney</i>	<i>13th Worcester</i>
<i>Michael O. Moore</i>	<i>Second Worcester</i>

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By Mr. O'Day of West Boylston, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 2802) of James J. O'Day and others relative to background checks on foster parents. Children, Families and Persons with Disabilities.

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[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION  
SEE HOUSE, NO. 3212 OF 2015-2016.]

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

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

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 51F of Chapter 119 of the General laws is hereby amended by inserting after the  
2 third paragraph the following:

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