

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 3212**

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The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

*James J. O'Day and Jennifer L. Flanagan*

*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>Jennifer L. Flanagan</i>	<i>Worcester and Middlesex</i>
<i>Denise Provost</i>	<i>27th Middlesex</i>
<i>Tricia Farley-Bouvier</i>	<i>3rd Berkshire</i>
<i>Danielle W. Gregoire</i>	<i>4th Middlesex</i>
<i>Bruce E. Tarr</i>	<i>First Essex and Middlesex</i>
<i>Brian M. Ashe</i>	<i>2nd Hampden</i>

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By Representative O'Day of West Boylston and Senator Flanagan, a joint petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 3212) of James J. O'Day and others relative to background checks on foster parents. Children, Families and Persons with Disabilities.

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The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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**In the One Hundred and Eighty-Ninth General Court  
(2015-2016)**  
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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 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.