

HOUSE No. 924

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Jerald A. Parisella, (BY REQUEST)

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 establishing a task force to study grandparents visitation rights.

PETITION OF:

NAME:

Denise Hansen

DISTRICT/ADDRESS:

79 Rantoul Street, Apt. 315 Beverly, MA

HOUSE No. 924

By Mr. Parisella of Beverly (by request), a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 924) of Denise Hansen for legislation to establish a task force to study grandparents' visitation rights. The Judiciary.

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION
SEE HOUSE, NO. 1528 OF 2015-2016.]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

An Act establishing a task force to study grandparents visitation rights.

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. (a) There is established a task force to study issues related to visitation rights
2 for grandparents. Such study shall include, but not be limited to, an examination of (1) the legal
3 and social issues related to grandparents' access to visitation, (2) the impact of the loss of contact
4 on families, (3) social supports to promote the continuation of these relationships, and (4)
5 legislative proposals that are consistent with the state constitution.

6 (b) The task force shall consist of Eleven members:

7 (1) Three appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives, at least one of whom
8 shall be a representative of an advocacy group representing the interests of grandparents seeking
9 visitation rights;

10 (2) Three appointed by the President of the Senate, at least one of whom shall be a
11 representative of an advocacy group representing the interests of children;

12 (3) Three appointed by the Governor, at least one of whom shall be a representative of a
13 Massachusetts legal services program and who has experience working in family law;

14 (4) Two appointed by the Chief Justice of the Probate and Family Court, at least one of
15 whom shall be a representative of the family law section of the Massachusetts Bar Association;

16 (5) All appointments to the task force shall be made not later than thirty days after the
17 effective date of this section. Any vacancy shall be filled by the appointing