

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 3617**

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**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

PRESENTED BY:

*Linda Campbell*

*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 pertaining to the verification of residency in conjunction with the receipt of transitional assistance.

PETITION OF:

NAME:

*Linda Campbell*

DISTRICT/ADDRESS:

*15th Essex*

DATE ADDED:

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 3617**

By Ms. Campbell of Methuen, a petition (subject to Joint Rule 12) of Linda Campbell relative to residency requirements for recipients of programs administered by the Department of Transitional Assistance. Children, Families and Persons with Disabilities.

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

**In the Year Two Thousand Thirteen**

An Act pertaining to the verification of residency in conjunction with the receipt of transitional assistance.

*Whereas*, The deferred operation of this act would tend to defeat its purpose, which is to ensure the identity of those receiving benefits from the Commonwealth, therefore it is hereby declared to be an emergency law, necessary for the immediate preservation of the public convenience.

*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) A recipient of assistance under any of the programs administered by the  
2 department of transitional assistance shall provide annual verification of the recipient’s residency  
3 within the commonwealth. Every application for residency verification made under this section  
4 shall be in writing, signed, under the penalties of perjury, on a form prescribed by the department  
5 of transitional assistance and consistent with the following:

6 (1) Each application for verification shall be submitted in person at the recipient’s  
7 closest regional office, branch office or outreach arrangement, as defined in section 5 of chapter  
8 18 of the General Laws; provided, however, that a disabled recipient may submit the application  
9 for verification by mail;

10 (2) Proof of residency may include a current utility bill, signed statement from a  
11 landlord with the landlord’s contact information, bank statement, government check, paycheck or  
12 other government document that shows the name and address of the recipient, and other such  
13 similar documentation; provided, however, that a driver’s license shall not be accepted as sole  
14 proof of residency;

15           (3)     The recipient shall provide all personal contact information; and

16           (4)     Each application for verification shall be signed by an employee of the  
17 department of transitional assistance, include copies of all supporting documentation and be  
18 maintained in said department's records.

19           (b) If there is no record that the recipient: (i) is a citizen of the United States or (ii) has  
20 filed a declaration of intention to become a citizen of the Unites States, the recipient shall present  
21 evidence of such with his or her annual application for residency verification.

22           (c) The required date for each recipient's annual application for residency verification  
23 shall be determined by the department of transitional assistance.

24           (d) The department of transitional assistance shall promulgate reasonable rules and  
25 regulations to implement the provisions of this section.

26           SECTION 2. Section 1 of this act is hereby repealed.

27           SECTION 3. Section 2 shall take effect on January 1, 2016.