

SENATE No. 1673

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Thomas P. Kennedy

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 expanding the authority of the bureau of special investigations.

PETITION OF:

NAME:

Thomas P. Kennedy

DISTRICT/ADDRESS:

Second Plymouth and Bristol

SENATE No. 1673

By Mr. Kennedy, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 1673) of Thomas P. Kennedy for legislation to expand the authority of the bureau of special investigations. State Administration and Regulatory Oversight.

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION
SEE SENATE, NO. 1497 OF 2013-2014.]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

An Act expanding the authority of the bureau of special investigations.

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 15D of Chapter 22 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 1992
2 Official Edition, is hereby amended by striking out the first sentence and inserting in place
3 thereof the following sentence:— The director shall initiate investigations and investigate
4 complaints, including complaints initiated by recipients, which indicate the possibility of either a
5 fraudulent claim for payment or services under any assistance program administered by the
6 department of public welfare and the department of social services, or a local or regional housing
7 authority, or any program administered by said departments or local or regional housing
8 authority, or a receipt of payment or services by a person not entitled thereto.

9 SECTION 2. Subsection (1) of said section 15D of said chapter 22, as so appearing, is
10 hereby amended by inserting, in line 13, after the words “the department of social services” the
11 words:— or any program administered by a local or regional housing authority.

12 SECTION 3. Subsection (2) of said section 15D of said chapter 22, as so appearing, is
13 hereby amended by inserting, in line 15, after the words “the department of social services” the
14 words:— a local or regional housing authority,.

15 SECTION 4. Subsection (3) of said section 15D of said chapter 22, as so appearing, is
16 hereby amended by inserting, in line 26, after the words “the department of social services” the
17 words:— or any program administered by a local or regional housing authority,.

18 SECTION 5. Subsection (4) of said section 15D of said chap- ter 22, as so appearing, is
19 hereby amended by inserting, in line 35, after the words “the department of social services” the
20 words:— or a local or regional housing authority,.

21 SECTION 6. Said section 15D of said chapter 22, as so appearing, is hereby amended by
22 inserting after subsection (9) the following subsection:—

23 (10) In any instance where the Director of the Bureau of Special Investigations finds
24 there is information or material suggesting or indicating ineligibility for any form of assistance,
25 service, or program administered by a local or regional housing authority, the Director of the
26 Bureau of Special Investigations shall report that information or material to the appropriate
27 housing authority director for purposes of eligibility determination, certification, verification,
28 tenant selection, or any other purpose or use authorized by law. In any instance where the
29 Director of the Bureau of Special Investigations finds there is probable cause to believe that there
30 has been a fraudulent claim, payment or receipt of assistance or services in any program

31 administered by a local or regional housing authority, the Director of the Bureau of Special
32 Investigations shall report that case to the attorney general or a district attorney for such action as
33 the attorney general or district attorney deems appropriate.

34 SECTION 7. Section 32 of Chapter 121B of the General Laws, as appearing in the 1992
35 Official Edition, is hereby amended by inserting, in line 27, after the word “authority”, the
36 words:— and may be subject to substantiation by the bureau of special investigations of the
37 commonwealth, as established in section fifteen B of chapter twenty-two, pursuant to regulations
38 promulgated by the department of community affairs in cooperation with the department of
39 public safety.