

HOUSE No. 101

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Jay D. Livingstone

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 improving public health through a common application for core food, health and safety-net programs.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:
<i>Jay D. Livingstone</i>	<i>8th Suffolk</i>
<i>Evandro C. Carvalho</i>	<i>5th Suffolk</i>
<i>James M. Cantwell</i>	<i>4th Plymouth</i>
<i>Tackey Chan</i>	<i>2nd Norfolk</i>
<i>Jason M. Lewis</i>	<i>Fifth Middlesex</i>
<i>Daniel M. Donahue</i>	<i>16th Worcester</i>
<i>Ann-Margaret Ferrante</i>	<i>5th Essex</i>
<i>Denise Provost</i>	<i>27th Middlesex</i>
<i>Robert M. Koczera</i>	<i>11th Bristol</i>
<i>Frank I. Smizik</i>	<i>15th Norfolk</i>
<i>Danielle W. Gregoire</i>	<i>4th Middlesex</i>
<i>Jack Lewis</i>	<i>7th Middlesex</i>
<i>Tricia Farley-Bouvier</i>	<i>3rd Berkshire</i>
<i>Paul J. Donato</i>	<i>35th Middlesex</i>
<i>William C. Galvin</i>	<i>6th Norfolk</i>
<i>Jennifer E. Benson</i>	<i>37th Middlesex</i>
<i>Daniel Cahill</i>	<i>10th Essex</i>

<i>Mike Connolly</i>	<i>26th Middlesex</i>
<i>James R. Miceli</i>	<i>19th Middlesex</i>
<i>Dylan Fernandes</i>	<i>Barnstable, Dukes and Nantucket</i>
<i>Frank A. Moran</i>	<i>17th Essex</i>
<i>Adrian Madaro</i>	<i>1st Suffolk</i>
<i>Aaron Vega</i>	<i>5th Hampden</i>
<i>Lori A. Ehrlich</i>	<i>8th Essex</i>
<i>Marjorie C. Decker</i>	<i>25th Middlesex</i>
<i>Christine P. Barber</i>	<i>34th Middlesex</i>
<i>John W. Scibak</i>	<i>2nd Hampshire</i>
<i>David M. Rogers</i>	<i>24th Middlesex</i>
<i>James J. O'Day</i>	<i>14th Worcester</i>
<i>Barbara A. L'Italien</i>	<i>Second Essex and Middlesex</i>
<i>Michael J. Finn</i>	<i>6th Hampden</i>
<i>Thomas J. Calter</i>	<i>12th Plymouth</i>
<i>Brian M. Ashe</i>	<i>2nd Hampden</i>
<i>Chynah Tyler</i>	<i>7th Suffolk</i>
<i>Daniel Cullinane</i>	<i>12th Suffolk</i>
<i>Gerard Cassidy</i>	<i>9th Plymouth</i>
<i>Kay Khan</i>	<i>11th Middlesex</i>
<i>Jay R. Kaufman</i>	<i>15th Middlesex</i>
<i>Chris Walsh</i>	<i>6th Middlesex</i>
<i>Paul R. Heroux</i>	<i>2nd Bristol</i>
<i>James B. Eldridge</i>	<i>Middlesex and Worcester</i>
<i>Elizabeth A. Malia</i>	<i>11th Suffolk</i>
<i>Ruth B. Balsler</i>	<i>12th Middlesex</i>
<i>Rady Mom</i>	<i>18th Middlesex</i>
<i>Natalie Higgins</i>	<i>4th Worcester</i>
<i>Angelo J. Puppolo, Jr.</i>	<i>12th Hampden</i>
<i>Carmine L. Gentile</i>	<i>13th Middlesex</i>
<i>William M. Straus</i>	<i>10th Bristol</i>
<i>Bud Williams</i>	<i>11th Hampden</i>
<i>John J. Mahoney</i>	<i>13th Worcester</i>
<i>Antonio F. D. Cabral</i>	<i>13th Bristol</i>
<i>Solomon Goldstein-Rose</i>	<i>3rd Hampshire</i>
<i>Paul A. Schmid, III</i>	<i>8th Bristol</i>
<i>Joan B. Lovely</i>	<i>Second Essex</i>
<i>Carolyn C. Dykema</i>	<i>8th Middlesex</i>
<i>Josh S. Cutler</i>	<i>6th Plymouth</i>

<i>Brendan P. Crighton</i>	<i>Third Essex</i>
<i>Kevin G. Honan</i>	<i>17th Suffolk</i>
<i>Alan Silvia</i>	<i>7th Bristol</i>
<i>Daniel J. Ryan</i>	<i>2nd Suffolk</i>
<i>Stephen Kulik</i>	<i>1st Franklin</i>
<i>Juana B. Matias</i>	<i>16th Essex</i>
<i>David M. Nangle</i>	<i>17th Middlesex</i>
<i>Carlos González</i>	<i>10th Hampden</i>
<i>Michelle M. DuBois</i>	<i>10th Plymouth</i>
<i>Jonathan Hecht</i>	<i>29th Middlesex</i>
<i>Mary S. Keefe</i>	<i>15th Worcester</i>
<i>Paul W. Mark</i>	<i>2nd Berkshire</i>
<i>Daniel J. Hunt</i>	<i>13th Suffolk</i>
<i>Gailanne M. Cariddi</i>	<i>1st Berkshire</i>
<i>Michael S. Day</i>	<i>31st Middlesex</i>
<i>William Driscoll</i>	<i>7th Norfolk</i>
<i>Jonathan D. Zlotnik</i>	<i>2nd Worcester</i>
<i>Eileen M. Donoghue</i>	<i>First Middlesex</i>
<i>Paul Tucker</i>	<i>7th Essex</i>
<i>Peter V. Kocot</i>	<i>1st Hampshire</i>
<i>Sean Garballey</i>	<i>23rd Middlesex</i>
<i>Todd M. Smola</i>	<i>1st Hampden</i>
<i>Michael O. Moore</i>	<i>Second Worcester</i>
<i>Sal N. DiDomenico</i>	<i>Middlesex and Suffolk</i>
<i>Smitty Pignatelli</i>	<i>4th Berkshire</i>
<i>Susannah M. Whipps</i>	<i>2nd Franklin</i>
<i>Edward F. Coppinger</i>	<i>10th Suffolk</i>
<i>Patricia D. Jehlen</i>	<i>Second Middlesex</i>
<i>José F. Tosado</i>	<i>9th Hampden</i>
<i>Ryan C. Fattman</i>	<i>Worcester and Norfolk</i>
<i>John C. Velis</i>	<i>4th Hampden</i>
<i>Paul McMurtry</i>	<i>11th Norfolk</i>
<i>Nick Collins</i>	<i>4th Suffolk</i>
<i>Byron Rushing</i>	<i>9th Suffolk</i>
<i>James Arciero</i>	<i>2nd Middlesex</i>
<i>Steven Ultrino</i>	<i>33rd Middlesex</i>
<i>Bradford R. Hill</i>	<i>4th Essex</i>
<i>Diana DiZoglio</i>	<i>14th Essex</i>
<i>Kenneth I. Gordon</i>	<i>21st Middlesex</i>

HOUSE No. 101

By Mr. Livingstone of Boston, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 101) of Jay D. Livingstone and others relative to the development of a common application portal for state-administered needs-based benefits and services. Children, Families and Persons with Disabilities.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

An Act improving public health through a common application for core food, health and safety-net programs.

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. Chapter 118E of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2014 Official
2 Edition, is hereby amended by adding after Section 77 the following section:-

3 Section 78. At the time of initial application for, or renewal of, MassHealth coverage or
4 any other single state application or renewal process described in section 9A of chapter 118E, the
5 department shall provide the MassHealth applicant or recipient with the opportunity to initiate a
6 common application for MassHealth and for programs administered by the department of
7 transitional assistance, including the federal supplemental nutrition assistance program. A
8 MassHealth applicant or recipient who elects to apply for these benefits shall have his or her
9 eligibility information and verifications used to initiate a simultaneous common application and
10 that information shall be transmitted to the department of transitional assistance to initiate the
11 application for benefits. The common application for benefits must be accepted with the

12 voluntary consent of the MassHealth applicant or recipient and shall have no bearing on the
13 MassHealth eligibility of the applicant or recipient. The department of transitional assistance
14 shall promptly inform said applicant of the eligibility requirements and any additional
15 verifications or obligations of the program or programs elected by the applicant.

16 SECTION 2. Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, the executive
17 office of health and human services and the executive office of communities and development
18 shall initiate development of a common application portal for individuals to simultaneously
19 apply for state-administered needs-based benefits and services in coordination with the office of
20 Medicaid, the department of transitional assistance, the department of early education and care,
21 the executive office of education and the department of housing and community development.
22 The common application shall allow individuals the option to apply at the same time for
23 MassHealth coverage, the supplemental nutrition assistance program, income supports under
24 Chapters 117A and 118 of the General Laws, veterans services benefits under Chapter 115 of the
25 General Laws, child care subsidies, housing subsidies, fuel assistance and other needs-based
26 health care, nutrition and shelter benefits. Not later than March 15, 2018, the executive office of
27 health and human services and executive office of communities and development shall report to
28 the executive office for administration and finance and the house and senate committees on ways
29 and means on the status of the development of the common application, including: (i) a timeline
30 for implementation; (ii) costs of development and implementation; and (iii) federal
31 reimbursement opportunities.