

HOUSE No. 2988

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Kate Hogan

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 to protect MassHealth applicants facing undue hardship.

PETITION OF:

| NAME: | DISTRICT/ADDRESS: |
|------------------------------|------------------------|
| <i>Kate Hogan</i> | <i>3rd Middlesex</i> |
| <i>José F. Tosado</i> | <i>9th Hampden</i> |
| <i>Chris Walsh</i> | <i>6th Middlesex</i> |
| <i>Steven Ultrino</i> | <i>33rd Middlesex</i> |
| <i>Thomas M. Stanley</i> | <i>9th Middlesex</i> |
| <i>Jennifer E. Benson</i> | <i>37th Middlesex</i> |
| <i>Jason M. Lewis</i> | <i>Fifth Middlesex</i> |
| <i>Kenneth I. Gordon</i> | <i>21st Middlesex</i> |
| <i>Kay Khan</i> | <i>11th Middlesex</i> |
| <i>Daniel M. Donahue</i> | <i>16th Worcester</i> |
| <i>Frank I. Smizik</i> | <i>15th Norfolk</i> |
| <i>Colleen M. Garry</i> | <i>36th Middlesex</i> |
| <i>David F. DeCoste</i> | <i>5th Plymouth</i> |
| <i>James J. O'Day</i> | <i>14th Worcester</i> |
| <i>Harriette L. Chandler</i> | <i>First Worcester</i> |
| <i>Ruth B. Balsler</i> | <i>12th Middlesex</i> |
| <i>Elizabeth A. Poirier</i> | <i>14th Bristol</i> |
| <i>Danielle W. Gregoire</i> | <i>4th Middlesex</i> |

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|-------------------------------|-------------------------|
| <i>Sean Garballey</i> | <i>23rd Middlesex</i> |
| <i>RoseLee Vincent</i> | <i>16th Suffolk</i> |
| <i>Angelo J. Puppolo, Jr.</i> | <i>12th Hampden</i> |
| <i>Michelle M. DuBois</i> | <i>10th Plymouth</i> |
| <i>Michael O. Moore</i> | <i>Second Worcester</i> |
| <i>Alice Hanlon Peisch</i> | <i>14th Norfolk</i> |
| <i>David M. Rogers</i> | <i>24th Middlesex</i> |

HOUSE No. 2988

By Ms. Hogan of Stow, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 2988) of Kate Hogan and others for legislation to establish criteria for MassHealth hardship waivers. Health Care Financing.

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION
SEE HOUSE, NO. 997 OF 2015-2016.]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

An Act to protect MassHealth applicants facing undue hardship.

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 inserting after section 28 the following section:—

3 Section 28A. A nursing facility resident may claim undue hardship in order to eliminate
4 the period of ineligibility. In accordance with P.L. 109-171 amending Section 1917(c)(2)(D) of
5 the Social Security Act, the division shall establish procedures for determining whether undue
6 hardship exists as a result of the imposition of a period of ineligibility, which shall include
7 written notice to said individual that an undue hardship exception exists, a timely process for
8 determining whether an undue hardship waiver shall be granted and an opportunity to appeal an
9 adverse determination. An individual may request an undue hardship waiver within 90 days
10 after the date of the final decision to impose a period of ineligibility, including judicial appeals.

11 (a) There shall be a rebuttable presumption that an institutionalized individual is eligible
12 for an undue hardship waiver if the individual provides documentation that all of the following
13 criteria are met:

14 1) the individual has insufficient available resources, excluding the community spouse
15 resource allowance, to provide medical care, food, shelter, clothing and other necessities of life
16 such that the individual would be at risk of serious deprivation or harm;

17 2) the individual has made reasonable attempts to retrieve the transferred resources or
18 receives adequate compensation;

19 3) there is no available less costly alternative to institutional care that would meet the
20 individual's care needs; and

21 4) the period of ineligibility will not be a mere inconvenience to the applicant but rather
22 will create a situation that would subject the applicant to risk of serious deprivation.

23 (b) A nursing facility need not express an intent to discharge the individual for
24 nonpayment in order for a hardship waiver to be granted.

25 (c) The division shall promulgate regulations incorporating these criteria for
26 consideration of an undue hardship waiver request.