

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 3106**

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**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

PRESENTED BY:

***Joan Meschino***

*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 accelerate a child’s reunification with family members.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	DATE ADDED:
<i>Joan Meschino</i>	<i>3rd Plymouth</i>	<i>1/20/2017</i>
<i>Juana B. Matias</i>	<i>16th Essex</i>	
<i>Tricia Farley-Bouvier</i>	<i>3rd Berkshire</i>	
<i>Bud Williams</i>	<i>11th Hampden</i>	
<i>Josh S. Cutler</i>	<i>6th Plymouth</i>	
<i>Natalie Higgins</i>	<i>4th Worcester</i>	

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By Ms. Meschino of Hull, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 3106) of Joan Meschino and others for legislation to expedite the reunification of children under temporary custody with family members. The Judiciary.

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[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION  
SEE HOUSE, NO. 1439 OF 2013-2014.]

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

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

An Act to accelerate a child’s reunification with family members.

*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 119 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2010 Official  
2 Edition, is hereby amended by inserting, after section 25, the following new section:-

3           Section 25A. Any time after granting temporary custody of a child to the department, the  
4 court may review and revise that order sua sponte to allow for the child to be placed in the  
5 custody of a parent, guardian, custodian, or a suitable third party. No sooner than 60 days after  
6 the filing of the care and protection petition under section 24, any party may file a motion  
7 requesting such a review. If the party alleges that there has been a material change in  
8 circumstances, the court shall take evidence on the issue to determine whether a modification of  
9 the order is warranted.