

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 3107**

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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 eliminate unnecessary time in foster care.**

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>Bud Williams</i>	<i>11th Hampden</i>	
<i>David M. Rogers</i>	<i>24th Middlesex</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. 3107) of Joan Meschino and others relative to the granting of temporary or permanent custody to a parent when the other parent is deemed unfit. The Judiciary.

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[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION  
SEE HOUSE, NO. 1444 OF 2013-2014.]

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

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

An Act to eliminate unnecessary time in foster care.

*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 26 (a) of chapter 119 of the General Laws, as appearing in the  
2   2010 Official Edition, is hereby amended by inserting after the first sentence the following new  
3   sentence:-

4           The court may thereafter grant temporary or permanent custody of the child to the child’s  
5   parent without a finding that the child’s other parent is unfit or adjudicating the child in need of  
6   care and protection.