

**SENATE . . . . . No. 612**

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

PRESENTED BY:

***Sal N. DiDomenico***

*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>Sal N. DiDomenico</i>	<i>Middlesex and Suffolk</i>	
<i>Evandro C. Carvalho</i>	<i>5th Suffolk</i>	<i>1/23/2017</i>
<i>Jason M. Lewis</i>	<i>Fifth Middlesex</i>	<i>1/24/2017</i>
<i>Thomas M. McGee</i>	<i>Third Essex</i>	<i>1/25/2017</i>
<i>Robert M. Koczera</i>	<i>11th Bristol</i>	<i>1/25/2017</i>
<i>Danielle W. Gregoire</i>	<i>4th Middlesex</i>	<i>1/25/2017</i>
<i>Jack Lewis</i>	<i>7th Middlesex</i>	<i>1/26/2017</i>
<i>Patricia D. Jehlen</i>	<i>Second Middlesex</i>	<i>1/27/2017</i>
<i>Jennifer L. Flanagan</i>	<i>Worcester and Middlesex</i>	<i>1/27/2017</i>
<i>Barbara A. L'Italien</i>	<i>Second Essex and Middlesex</i>	<i>1/27/2017</i>
<i>Marjorie C. Decker</i>	<i>25th Middlesex</i>	<i>1/30/2017</i>
<i>Steven Ultrino</i>	<i>33rd Middlesex</i>	<i>1/30/2017</i>
<i>Jay R. Kaufman</i>	<i>15th Middlesex</i>	<i>1/31/2017</i>
<i>Paul R. Heroux</i>	<i>2nd Bristol</i>	<i>1/31/2017</i>
<i>Adam G. Hinds</i>	<i>Berkshire, Hampshire, Franklin and Hampden</i>	<i>1/31/2017</i>
<i>James B. Eldridge</i>	<i>Middlesex and Worcester</i>	<i>1/31/2017</i>

<i>John F. Keenan</i>	<i>Norfolk and Plymouth</i>	<i>1/31/2017</i>
<i>Cynthia Stone Creem</i>	<i>First Middlesex and Norfolk</i>	<i>1/31/2017</i>
<i>Mike Connolly</i>	<i>26th Middlesex</i>	<i>1/31/2017</i>
<i>Angelo J. Puppolo, Jr.</i>	<i>12th Hampden</i>	<i>2/1/2017</i>
<i>Denise Provost</i>	<i>27th Middlesex</i>	<i>2/1/2017</i>
<i>Paul A. Schmid, III</i>	<i>8th Bristol</i>	<i>2/1/2017</i>
<i>Jay D. Livingstone</i>	<i>8th Suffolk</i>	<i>2/1/2017</i>
<i>Mary S. Keefe</i>	<i>15th Worcester</i>	<i>2/2/2017</i>
<i>Joan B. Lovely</i>	<i>Second Essex</i>	<i>2/2/2017</i>
<i>William N. Brownsberger</i>	<i>Second Suffolk and Middlesex</i>	<i>2/2/2017</i>
<i>Kevin G. Honan</i>	<i>17th Suffolk</i>	<i>2/2/2017</i>
<i>Daniel J. Ryan</i>	<i>2nd Suffolk</i>	<i>2/2/2017</i>
<i>James J. O'Day</i>	<i>14th Worcester</i>	<i>2/3/2017</i>
<i>Eileen M. Donoghue</i>	<i>First Middlesex</i>	<i>2/3/2017</i>
<i>Michael O. Moore</i>	<i>Second Worcester</i>	<i>2/3/2017</i>
<i>Peter V. Kocot</i>	<i>1st Hampshire</i>	<i>2/3/2017</i>
<i>Ryan C. Fattman</i>	<i>Worcester and Norfolk</i>	<i>2/3/2017</i>
<i>Rady Mom</i>	<i>18th Middlesex</i>	<i>2/3/2017</i>
<i>José F. Tosado</i>	<i>9th Hampden</i>	<i>2/3/2017</i>
<i>Anne M. Gobi</i>	<i>Worcester, Hampden, Hampshire and Middlesex</i>	<i>2/3/2017</i>
<i>Michael J. Rodrigues</i>	<i>First Bristol and Plymouth</i>	<i>2/3/2017</i>
<i>Sean Garballey</i>	<i>23rd Middlesex</i>	<i>2/3/2017</i>
<i>Michael J. Barrett</i>	<i>Third Middlesex</i>	<i>2/6/2017</i>
<i>Marc T. Lombardo</i>	<i>22nd Middlesex</i>	<i>2/8/2017</i>
<i>Kenneth J. Donnelly</i>	<i>Fourth Middlesex</i>	<i>3/16/2017</i>
<i>Linda Dorcena Forry</i>	<i>First Suffolk</i>	<i>4/10/2017</i>
<i>Eric P. Lesser</i>	<i>First Hampden and Hampshire</i>	<i>5/8/2017</i>
<i>Julian Cyr</i>	<i>Cape and Islands</i>	<i>5/18/2017</i>
<i>Cindy F. Friedman</i>	<i>Fourth Middlesex</i>	<i>10/3/2017</i>

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By Mr. DiDomenico, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 612) of Sal N. DiDomenico, Evandro C. Carvalho, Jason M. Lewis, Thomas M. McGee and other members of the General Court for legislation to improve public health through a common application for core food, health and safety-net programs. Health Care Financing.

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**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

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**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.