HOUSE DOCKET, NO. 1434 FILED ON: 2/5/2021

HOUSE . . . . . No. 183

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Christine P. Barber and David M. Rogers

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 further family-centered child support.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	DATE ADDED:
Christine P. Barber	*34th Middlesex*	*2/5/2021*
David M. Rogers	*24th Middlesex*	*2/25/2021*
David Henry Argosky LeBoeuf	*17th Worcester*	*2/9/2021*
Marcos A. Devers	*16th Essex*	*2/16/2021*
Lindsay N. Sabadosa	*1st Hampshire*	*2/18/2021*
James K. Hawkins	*2nd Bristol*	*2/26/2021*
Tricia Farley-Bouvier	*3rd Berkshire*	*2/26/2021*
Chynah Tyler	*7th Suffolk*	*5/18/2021*

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HOUSE . . . . . No. 183

By Representatives Barber of Somerville and Rogers of Cambridge, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 183) of Christine P. Barber, David M. Rogers and others relative to child support determinations and payments. Children, Families and Persons with Disabilities.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the One Hundred and Ninety-Second General Court
(2021-2022)

An Act to further family-centered child support.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

SECTION 1. Chapter 18 of the general laws is hereby amended by striking section 18A and inserting in place thereof the following new section:--

Section 18A. (a)(1). The department shall impose the sanction required by federal law on any recipient of public assistance funded under Title IV-A of the Social Security Act who, without good cause, does not cooperate with the IV-D agency specified in chapter 119A to establish paternity or to establish, modify, or enforce a child support order on behalf of a child for whom the recipient receives such public assistance.

(2) The department shall determine that a recipient has good cause for not cooperating with the IV-D agency for purposes of this section if:

(A) The child was conceived as a result of incest or rape;

(B) Proceedings for the adoption of the child are pending or under consideration;

(C) Cooperation risks discouraging the noncustodial parent or other relatives of the child from maintaining a relationship with the child or providing emotional or other support;

(D) Cooperation risks physical or emotional harm to the child or the relative with whom the child resides; or

(E) Cooperation is otherwise not in the child's best interest.

SECTION 2. Section 2 of chapter 118 of the general laws is hereby amended by inserting at the end of the first paragraph the following:- Child support collected on behalf of a recipient of benefits under this chapter shall be paid to the family. In determining the family's countable income, the department shall disregard the first $500 per month in child support paid to the family.

SECTION 3. Section 2 of chapter 119A of the general laws is hereby amended by adding at the end of subsection (a) the following:- The IV-D agency shall provide paternity only services in an intrastate case upon the request of an individual who is not required to cooperate with the IV-D agency to establish paternity or to establish, modify, or enforce a child support order.