

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 204**

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**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

PRESENTED BY:

*Donald R. Berthiaume, Jr.*

*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 requiring the documentation of child counsel appointments.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	DATE ADDED:
<i>Donald R. Berthiaume, Jr.</i>	<i>5th Worcester</i>	<i>1/15/2025</i>
<i>Kelly W. Pease</i>	<i>4th Hampden</i>	<i>7/31/2025</i>

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 204**

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By Representative Berthiaume of Spencer, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 204) of Donald R. Berthiaume, Jr., relative to the Department of Children and Families providing official documentation of child counsel appointments. Children, Families and Persons with Disabilities.

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[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION  
SEE HOUSE, NO. 133 OF 2023-2024.]

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**In the One Hundred and Ninety-Fourth General Court  
(2025-2026)**  
\_\_\_\_\_

An Act requiring the documentation of child counsel appointments.

*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 29 of Chapter 119 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2018 Official Edition,  
2 is hereby amended by adding at the end thereof the following paragraph:- Counsel under the  
3 department shall meet on a quarterly basis with any child currently in the custody of the  
4 department. The department shall provide official documentation, which shall be subject to  
5 approval to any relevant commission, social worker, foster parent, or guardian to confirm the  
6 validity of said quarterly meeting. Counsel shall present documentation prior to compensation  
7 for said quarterly meetings.