

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 205**

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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 relating to background checks for kinship foster care.**

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. 205**

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By Representative Berthiaume of Spencer, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 205) of Donald R. Berthiaume, Jr., relative to background checks for kinship foster care. Children, Families and Persons with Disabilities.

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[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION  
SEE HOUSE, NO. 132 OF 2023-2024.]

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

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

An Act relating to background checks for kinship 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 32 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:- the department shall  
3 screen potential grandparent care givers with a twenty year maximum look back on the potential  
4 guardian’s record. This is applicable to any minor infraction that has not been repeated since the  
5 first infraction. Instances of felonies, violence, and sexual offenses, no matter when it occurred,  
6 will not be removed from the look back.