

# HOUSE . . . . . No. 254

## The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

***Sally P. Kerans***

*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 replace stolen benefits.

PETITION OF:

| NAME:                           | DISTRICT/ADDRESS:                | DATE ADDED:      |
|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|------------------|
| <i>Sally P. Kerans</i>          | <i>13th Essex</i>                | <i>1/16/2025</i> |
| <i>Kristin E. Kassner</i>       | <i>2nd Essex</i>                 | <i>1/22/2025</i> |
| <i>Natalie M. Higgins</i>       | <i>4th Worcester</i>             | <i>1/31/2025</i> |
| <i>James C. Arena-DeRosa</i>    | <i>8th Middlesex</i>             | <i>2/18/2025</i> |
| <i>Carmine Lawrence Gentile</i> | <i>13th Middlesex</i>            | <i>2/18/2025</i> |
| <i>Bruce E. Tarr</i>            | <i>First Essex and Middlesex</i> | <i>4/7/2025</i>  |
| <i>Vanna Howard</i>             | <i>17th Middlesex</i>            | <i>4/7/2025</i>  |
| <i>Lindsay N. Sabadosa</i>      | <i>1st Hampshire</i>             | <i>4/7/2025</i>  |
| <i>Tara T. Hong</i>             | <i>18th Middlesex</i>            | <i>4/7/2025</i>  |
| <i>Susannah M. Whipps</i>       | <i>2nd Franklin</i>              | <i>4/7/2025</i>  |
| <i>Samantha Montaño</i>         | <i>15th Suffolk</i>              | <i>4/17/2025</i> |
| <i>Sean Garballey</i>           | <i>23rd Middlesex</i>            | <i>4/28/2025</i> |
| <i>Erika Uyterhoeven</i>        | <i>27th Middlesex</i>            | <i>5/16/2025</i> |
| <i>James B. Eldridge</i>        | <i>Middlesex and Worcester</i>   | <i>5/16/2025</i> |
| <i>Natalie M. Blais</i>         | <i>1st Franklin</i>              | <i>9/10/2025</i> |
| <i>Marjorie C. Decker</i>       | <i>25th Middlesex</i>            | <i>9/24/2025</i> |

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 254**

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By Representative Kerans of Danvers, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 254) of Sally P. Kerans and others for legislation to replace stolen transitional assistance financial assistance program benefits. Children, Families and Persons with Disabilities.

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**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

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**In the One Hundred and Ninety-Fourth General Court  
(2025-2026)**  
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An Act to replace stolen benefits.

*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 2 of chapter 18 of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after  
2 subsection (B)(s), the following new subsection:-

3 Subsection (t). promptly replace the full amount of financial assistance or nutrition  
4 benefits stolen through electronic benefit transfer card skimming, card cloning or other  
5 fraudulent methods, including organized identity theft schemes, to the extent the federal  
6 government fails to provide federal funds to replace stolen benefits, provided that the thefts have  
7 been reported to or identified by the Department in accordance with procedures for making and  
8 verifying replacement claims established by the department.