

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

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**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

PRESENTED BY:

***Christopher J. Worrell***

*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 establish the Leslie law.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	DATE ADDED:
<i>Christopher J. Worrell</i>	<i>5th Suffolk</i>	<i>1/16/2025</i>

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

[Pin Slip]

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

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

An Act to establish the Leslie law.

*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. Definitions(a) "Out-of-home care" shall refer to family foster care, family  
2 child care, large family child care, child care center care, school-aged child care programs, group  
3 residential care, or temporary shelter for foster children licensed under Chapter 15D of the  
4 General Laws, or a family foster home not licensed by the Department of Early Education and  
5 Care (EEC).(b) "DCF" shall refer to the Massachusetts Department of Children and Families.(c)  
6 "Surveillance camera" shall refer to a recording device placed in an obvious location inside a  
7 building to monitor audio and visual proceedings.(d) "Public spaces" shall refer to any area  
8 inside or outside of the home where children and adults interact, including but not limited to,  
9 driveways, backyards, kitchens, dining rooms, living rooms, and dens.(e) "Body-worn camera"  
10 shall refer to a recording device worn on a social worker's person which collects audio and  
11 visual recordings of encounters between DCF employees and the public.(f) "Social worker" shall  
12 refer to a family resource worker, DCF investigator, adoption social worker, ongoing social  
13 worker, or medical social worker employed and under the directive of DCF.(g) "Medical alert  
14 device" shall refer to an age-appropriate body-worn apparatus which allows instantaneous

15 contact with designated healthcare practitioners to respond to immediate and urgent medical  
16 needs.

17 SECTION 2. Surveillance in Out-of-Home Care Facilities(a) In the event of an allegation  
18 of abuse pursuant to Section 51A of Chapter 119 of the General Laws against any state employee  
19 or state-licensed foster parent responsible for foster children in out-of-home care, which is  
20 escalated under Section 51B of the same chapter, the out-of-home facility shall be equipped with  
21 surveillance cameras in all public spaces regardless of the outcome of the investigation.(b) The  
22 out-of-home care facility must implement surveillance cameras in a manner that allows proper  
23 viewing of the entire space where they are installed and shall install such cameras within two  
24 business days of the initiation of the Section 51B investigation.(c) Surveillance cameras shall not  
25 be placed in bedrooms or bathrooms used by children over the age of four.(d) The surveillance  
26 cameras shall remain in the facility for the entirety of the period during which the facility  
27 continues to be licensed by the EEC and continues to house and care for foster children.(e) When  
28 a facility ceases operations under this chapter, the surveillance cameras may be removed.(f) DCF  
29 shall be responsible for providing and financing all video surveillance equipment and creating a  
30 system to maintain the recordings.

31 SECTION 3. Body-Worn Cameras for Social Workers(a) A social worker employed and  
32 under the directive of DCF shall wear a body-worn camera at all times when entering an out-of-  
33 home facility in charge of a foster child while conducting proceedings pursuant to Section 51A  
34 of Chapter 119.(b) When entering a private home to investigate a report of abuse pursuant to  
35 Section 51A of Chapter 119 of the General Laws, a DCF social worker shall obtain the consent  
36 of the biological parent or legal guardian of the child and comply with their decision regarding  
37 recording the proceedings.(c) A social worker employed and under the directive of DCF shall

38 wear a body-worn camera during any emergency removal process.(d) DCF shall be responsible  
39 for creating a system to maintain these recordings.(e) DCF shall include in its yearly report the  
40 outcomes of the emergency removal process, referencing body-worn camera footage for  
41 instances of physical altercations, violence between social workers and the public, and the rate of  
42 escalation involving law enforcement.

43 SECTION 4. Medical Alert Devices for Foster Children(a) DCF shall ensure that every  
44 child above the age of 10 for whom the department has custody is provided with a functional cell  
45 phone. Expenditures for monthly phone bills, maintenance costs, and physical devices shall be  
46 covered by the department.(b) Foster children in the custody of the department shall be provided  
47 with a medical alert device, along with mandatory training courses for proper use. These devices  
48 shall contain essential health information for each foster child to ensure proper medical  
49 responses.(c) DCF shall include in its yearly report the rate of use of medical alert devices and  
50 the outcomes of medical interventions resulting from their usage.(d) Each foster child in the  
51 custody of the department shall receive a comprehensive medical evaluation annually following  
52 the initial health evaluation during intake. The results of these evaluations shall be used to report  
53 potential abuse and maltreatment.

54 SECTION 5. Waiver of Immunity(a) Non-compliance with the provisions outlined in this  
55 act may result in the waiver of immunity.

56 SECTION 6. ImplementationThis act shall take effect in 2024. Any policies necessary to  
57 comply with these provisions shall be promulgated on or before the effective date of this act.