

HOUSE No.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Bradley H. Jones, 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 an audit to review the utilization of welfare benefits out-of-state.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	DATE ADDED:
<i>Bradley H. Jones, Jr.</i>	<i>20th Middlesex</i>	<i>1/16/2025</i>
<i>Kimberly N. Ferguson</i>	<i>1st Worcester</i>	<i>1/17/2025</i>

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[Pin Slip]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

An Act requiring an audit to review the utilization of welfare benefits out-of-state.

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. Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, the office of the
2 state auditor shall conduct an annual audit of the department of transitional assistance. The scope
3 of the audit shall include a review of the following information from the previous fiscal year: the
4 processes and internal controls that the department uses to verify and issue benefits to eligible
5 recipients; how many individuals currently hold EBT cards; how many of those with cards are
6 actively receiving benefits; the total amount of benefits that have been utilized out-of-state; how
7 frequently benefits are used out-of-state; a list of locations where benefits are being spent out of
8 state; and a breakdown of the demographic information of those receiving benefits.

9 SECTION 2. The office of the state auditor shall submit an annual report with its findings
10 no later than January 1st each year, including any recommendations for how the department of
11 transitional assistance can improve its processes to help detect and reduce potential recipient and
12 retailer fraud, waste, or abuse, including improper use of benefits out-of-state. Additionally, the
13 report shall examine factors that may be driving increased enrollment for benefits, and what

14 projected fiscal and operational challenges the department of transitional assistance may face as

15 a result.

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