

**SENATE . . . . . No.**

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**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

PRESENTED BY:

*Bruce E. Tarr*

*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 empowering law enforcement to cooperate with the United States to transfer custody of convicted criminals..

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	
<i>Bruce E. Tarr</i>	<i>First Essex and Middlesex</i>	
<i>Hannah Kane</i>	<i>11th Worcester</i>	<i>1/17/2025</i>

**SENATE . . . . . No.**

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[Pin Slip]

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**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

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

An Act empowering law enforcement to cooperate with the United States to transfer custody of convicted criminals..

*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. Chapter 276 of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after  
2 section 20R the following section:-

3           Section 20S. (a) Any employee of the Commonwealth, or a public instrumentality or  
4 political subdivision thereof, who holds police powers or the powers of a sheriff or deputy  
5 sheriff, including but not limited to municipal police officers, court officers, and state troopers,  
6 and who has lawful custody of a person may, upon receipt of (1) a written request from United  
7 States Immigration and Customs Enforcement requesting detention of such person on the  
8 grounds that there is probable cause that such person is a removable alien and (2) an  
9 administrative warrant for arrest or warrant of removal/deportation, detain such person for a  
10 reasonable period of time after such person would otherwise be released from custody in order to  
11 transfer custody of such person to United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement,  
12 provided that a supervisory officer of such employee’s agency has, in accordance with a policy  
13 promulgated in accordance with subsection (c), first determined that there are specific facts

14 indicating that the person to be detained poses a threat to public safety; and further provided that  
15 such person be provided with a copy of such written request; and further provided that in no  
16 circumstances shall such detention exceed 12 hours unless an appropriate judicial officer shall  
17 have made a probable cause determination under the procedure set forth in subsection (d).

18 (b) As used in subsection (a), “specific facts indicating that the person to be detained  
19 poses a threat to public safety” shall mean that, at a minimum, any of the following facts are true  
20 with respect to such person:

21 (1) the person has engaged in or is suspected of terrorism or espionage, or otherwise  
22 poses a danger to national security;

23 (2) the person has been convicted of an offense of which an element was active  
24 participation in a criminal street gang, as defined in 18 U.S.C. § 521(a);

25 (3) the person has been convicted of an offense classified as a felony, other than a state or  
26 local offense for which an essential element was the person’s immigration status;

27 (4) the person has been convicted of an aggravated felony, as defined under 8 U.S.C. §  
28 1101(a)(43); or

29 (5) the person has been convicted of a crime of (i) domestic violence; (ii) sexual abuse or  
30 exploitation; (iii) trafficking in persons in violation of sections 50 or 51 of chapter 265 or like  
31 violations of the law of another state, the United States or a military, territorial or Indian tribal  
32 authority; (iv) burglary; (v) unlawful possession or use of a firearm; (vi) drug distribution or  
33 trafficking; (vii) second or subsequent operating or driving under the influence; or (viii) any  
34 other offense for which the person has been sentenced to time in custody of 180 days or more.

35 (c) Each agency of the Commonwealth or any public instrumentality or political  
36 subdivision of the Commonwealth that chooses to allow its employees to exercise the authority  
37 granted by subsection (a) shall promulgate a written policy designating which supervisory  
38 officers may make the determination required by subsection (a) before a person is detained and  
39 the criteria such supervisory officer shall use in making such determination.

40 (d) A determination of probable cause for detention shall be made by an appropriate  
41 judicial officer and promptly reduced to writing. The appropriate judicial officer shall consider  
42 any information presented by the detaining agency, whether or not known at the time of initial  
43 detention. The detaining agency shall present the information under oath or affirmation or under  
44 the pains and penalties of perjury, and may present the information orally, in person or by any  
45 other means, or in writing. If presented in writing, the information may be transmitted to the  
46 appropriate judicial officer by facsimile transmission or by electronic mail or by such other  
47 electronic means as may be found acceptable by the court. The determination of probable cause  
48 for detention shall be an ex parte proceeding. The person detained shall have no right to appear,  
49 either in person or by counsel. If the judicial officer determines that there is not probable cause  
50 to believe the person detained is a removable alien, then the judicial officer shall order that the  
51 person be released forthwith. Such a determination and order shall be filed in the District Court  
52 having jurisdiction over the location of the detention, together with all written information  
53 submitted by the detaining agency. Such documents shall be filed separately from the records of  
54 criminal cases, and shall be open for inspection by the public. If a determination under this  
55 subsection is necessary, the detaining agency shall present the information necessary to obtain  
56 such determination to the appropriate judicial officer as soon as reasonably possible after the  
57 detention begins, but no later than 12 hours after the detention begins.

58           (e) This section shall not be construed to give rise to a private right of action and shall not  
59 be construed so as to make unlawful any arrest in this commonwealth which would otherwise be  
60 lawful.