

SENATE No.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Harriette L. Chandler

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 protect MassHealth applicants facing undue hardship.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	
Harriette L. Chandler	First Worcester	
Kate Hogan	3rd Middlesex	2/3/2017
Diana DiZoglio	14th Essex	1/20/2017
Carolyn C. Dykema	8th Middlesex	1/26/2017
Sal N. DiDomenico	Middlesex and Suffolk	1/30/2017
Danielle W. Gregoire	4th Middlesex	2/1/2017
Kay Khan	11th Middlesex	2/2/2017
RoseLee Vincent	16th Suffolk	2/2/2017
Angelo J. Puppolo, Jr.	12th Hampden	2/2/2017
Anne M. Gobi	Worcester, Hampden, Hampshire and Middlesex	2/3/2017
Patrick M. O'Connor	Plymouth and Norfolk	2/3/2017
James J. O'Day	14th Worcester	2/3/2017
Alice Hanlon Peisch	14th Norfolk	2/3/2017

SENATE No.

[Pin Slip]

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION
SEE SENATE, NO. 567 OF 2015-2016.]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

**In the One Hundred and Ninetieth General Court
(2017-2018)**

An Act to protect MassHealth applicants facing undue hardship.

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 118E of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2014 Official
2 Edition, is hereby amended by inserting after section 28 the following section:—

3 Section 28A. A nursing facility resident may claim undue hardship in order to eliminate
4 the period of ineligibility. In accordance with P.L. 109-171 amending Section 1917(c)(2)(D) of
5 the Social Security Act, the division shall establish procedures for determining whether undue
6 hardship exists as a result of the imposition of a period of ineligibility, which shall include
7 written notice to said individual that an undue hardship exception exists, a timely process for
8 determining whether an undue hardship waiver shall be granted and an opportunity to appeal an
9 adverse determination. An individual may request an undue hardship waiver within 90 days
10 after the date of the final decision to impose a period of ineligibility, including judicial appeals.

11 (a) There shall be a rebuttable presumption that an institutionalized individual is eligible
12 for an undue hardship waiver if the individual provides documentation that all of the following
13 criteria are met:

14 1) the individual has insufficient available resources, excluding the community spouse
15 resource allowance, to provide medical care, food, shelter, clothing and other necessities of life
16 such that the individual would be at risk of serious deprivation or harm;

17 2) the individual has made reasonable attempts to retrieve the transferred resources or
18 receives adequate compensation;

19 3) there is no available less costly alternative to institutional care that would meet the
20 individual's care needs; and

21 4) the period of ineligibility will not be a mere inconvenience to the applicant but rather
22 will create a situation that would subject the applicant to risk of serious deprivation.

23 (b) A nursing facility need not express an intent to discharge the individual for
24 nonpayment in order for a hardship waiver to be granted.

25 (c) The division shall promulgate regulations incorporating these criteria for
26 consideration of an undue hardship waiver request.