

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 1173**

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

PRESENTED BY:

***Jay D. Livingstone***

*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 improving public health through a common application for core food, health and safety-net programs.

PETITION OF:

| NAME:                        | DISTRICT/ADDRESS:                  |
|------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| <i>Jay D. Livingstone</i>    | <i>8th Suffolk</i>                 |
| <i>James Arciero</i>         | <i>2nd Middlesex</i>               |
| <i>Brian M. Ashe</i>         | <i>2nd Hampden</i>                 |
| <i>Ruth B. Balsler</i>       | <i>12th Middlesex</i>              |
| <i>Christine P. Barber</i>   | <i>34th Middlesex</i>              |
| <i>John Barrett, III</i>     | <i>1st Berkshire</i>               |
| <i>Michael J. Barrett</i>    | <i>Third Middlesex</i>             |
| <i>Jennifer E. Benson</i>    | <i>37th Middlesex</i>              |
| <i>David Biele</i>           | <i>4th Suffolk</i>                 |
| <i>Natalie M. Blais</i>      | <i>1st Franklin</i>                |
| <i>Joseph A. Boncore</i>     | <i>First Suffolk and Middlesex</i> |
| <i>Paul Brodeur</i>          | <i>32nd Middlesex</i>              |
| <i>Antonio F. D. Cabral</i>  | <i>13th Bristol</i>                |
| <i>Daniel Cahill</i>         | <i>10th Essex</i>                  |
| <i>Daniel R. Carey</i>       | <i>2nd Hampshire</i>               |
| <i>Gerard J. Cassidy</i>     | <i>9th Plymouth</i>                |
| <i>Harriette L. Chandler</i> | <i>First Worcester</i>             |

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| <i>Sonia Chang-Diaz</i>         | <i>Second Suffolk</i>                  |
| <i>Michelle L. Ciccolo</i>      | <i>15th Middlesex</i>                  |
| <i>Mike Connolly</i>            | <i>26th Middlesex</i>                  |
| <i>Edward F. Coppinger</i>      | <i>10th Suffolk</i>                    |
| <i>Brendan P. Crighton</i>      | <i>Third Essex</i>                     |
| <i>Daniel R. Cullinane</i>      | <i>12th Suffolk</i>                    |
| <i>Julian Cyr</i>               | <i>Cape and Islands</i>                |
| <i>Michael S. Day</i>           | <i>31st Middlesex</i>                  |
| <i>Marjorie C. Decker</i>       | <i>25th Middlesex</i>                  |
| <i>David F. DeCoste</i>         | <i>5th Plymouth</i>                    |
| <i>Sal N. DiDomenico</i>        | <i>Middlesex and Suffolk</i>           |
| <i>Mindy Domb</i>               | <i>3rd Hampshire</i>                   |
| <i>Daniel M. Donahue</i>        | <i>16th Worcester</i>                  |
| <i>Michelle M. DuBois</i>       | <i>10th Plymouth</i>                   |
| <i>Carolyn C. Dykema</i>        | <i>8th Middlesex</i>                   |
| <i>Lori A. Ehrlich</i>          | <i>8th Essex</i>                       |
| <i>James B. Eldridge</i>        | <i>Middlesex and Worcester</i>         |
| <i>Nika C. Elugardo</i>         | <i>15th Suffolk</i>                    |
| <i>Tricia Farley-Bouvier</i>    | <i>3rd Berkshire</i>                   |
| <i>Ryan C. Fattman</i>          | <i>Worcester and Norfolk</i>           |
| <i>Kimberly N. Ferguson</i>     | <i>1st Worcester</i>                   |
| <i>Dylan A. Fernandes</i>       | <i>Barnstable, Dukes and Nantucket</i> |
| <i>Ann-Margaret Ferrante</i>    | <i>5th Essex</i>                       |
| <i>William C. Galvin</i>        | <i>6th Norfolk</i>                     |
| <i>Sean Garballey</i>           | <i>23rd Middlesex</i>                  |
| <i>Carmine Lawrence Gentile</i> | <i>13th Middlesex</i>                  |
| <i>Carlos Gonzalez</i>          | <i>10th Hampden</i>                    |
| <i>Tami L. Gouveia</i>          | <i>14th Middlesex</i>                  |
| <i>Danielle W. Gregoire</i>     | <i>4th Middlesex</i>                   |
| <i>James K. Hawkins</i>         | <i>2nd Bristol</i>                     |
| <i>Stephan Hay</i>              | <i>3rd Worcester</i>                   |
| <i>Jonathan Hecht</i>           | <i>29th Middlesex</i>                  |
| <i>Natalie M. Higgins</i>       | <i>4th Worcester</i>                   |
| <i>Bradford Hill</i>            | <i>4th Essex</i>                       |
| <i>Kate Hogan</i>               | <i>3rd Middlesex</i>                   |
| <i>Kevin G. Honan</i>           | <i>17th Suffolk</i>                    |
| <i>Daniel J. Hunt</i>           | <i>13th Suffolk</i>                    |
| <i>Patricia D. Jehlen</i>       | <i>Second Middlesex</i>                |
| <i>Louis L. Kafka</i>           | <i>8th Norfolk</i>                     |

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|------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| <i>Hannah Kane</i>                 | <i>11th Worcester</i>                 |
| <i>Mary S. Keefe</i>               | <i>15th Worcester</i>                 |
| <i>Kay Khan</i>                    | <i>11th Middlesex</i>                 |
| <i>John J. Lawn, Jr.</i>           | <i>10th Middlesex</i>                 |
| <i>David Henry Argosky LeBoeuf</i> | <i>17th Worcester</i>                 |
| <i>Jack Patrick Lewis</i>          | <i>7th Middlesex</i>                  |
| <i>David Paul Linsky</i>           | <i>5th Middlesex</i>                  |
| <i>Adrian C. Madaro</i>            | <i>1st Suffolk</i>                    |
| <i>John J. Mahoney</i>             | <i>13th Worcester</i>                 |
| <i>Elizabeth A. Malia</i>          | <i>11th Suffolk</i>                   |
| <i>Paul W. Mark</i>                | <i>2nd Berkshire</i>                  |
| <i>Joseph W. McGonagle, Jr.</i>    | <i>28th Middlesex</i>                 |
| <i>Paul McMurtry</i>               | <i>11th Norfolk</i>                   |
| <i>Christina A. Minicucci</i>      | <i>14th Essex</i>                     |
| <i>Liz Miranda</i>                 | <i>5th Suffolk</i>                    |
| <i>Rady Mom</i>                    | <i>18th Middlesex</i>                 |
| <i>Frank A. Moran</i>              | <i>17th Essex</i>                     |
| <i>Brian W. Murray</i>             | <i>10th Worcester</i>                 |
| <i>Harold P. Naughton, Jr.</i>     | <i>12th Worcester</i>                 |
| <i>Tram T. Nguyen</i>              | <i>18th Essex</i>                     |
| <i>James J. O'Day</i>              | <i>14th Worcester</i>                 |
| <i>Alice Hanlon Peisch</i>         | <i>14th Norfolk</i>                   |
| <i>Smitty Pignatelli</i>           | <i>4th Berkshire</i>                  |
| <i>Elizabeth A. Poirier</i>        | <i>14th Bristol</i>                   |
| <i>Denise Provost</i>              | <i>27th Middlesex</i>                 |
| <i>Angelo J. Puppolo, Jr.</i>      | <i>12th Hampden</i>                   |
| <i>Rebecca L. Rausch</i>           | <i>Norfolk, Bristol and Middlesex</i> |
| <i>Maria Duaine Robinson</i>       | <i>6th Middlesex</i>                  |
| <i>David M. Rogers</i>             | <i>24th Middlesex</i>                 |
| <i>Daniel J. Ryan</i>              | <i>2nd Suffolk</i>                    |
| <i>Lindsay N. Sabadosa</i>         | <i>1st Hampshire</i>                  |
| <i>Jon Santiago</i>                | <i>9th Suffolk</i>                    |
| <i>Paul A. Schmid, III</i>         | <i>8th Bristol</i>                    |
| <i>Alan Silvia</i>                 | <i>7th Bristol</i>                    |
| <i>Todd M. Smola</i>               | <i>1st Hampden</i>                    |
| <i>Thomas M. Stanley</i>           | <i>9th Middlesex</i>                  |
| <i>Walter F. Timilty</i>           | <i>Norfolk, Bristol and Plymouth</i>  |
| <i>José F. Tosado</i>              | <i>9th Hampden</i>                    |
| <i>Chynah Tyler</i>                | <i>7th Suffolk</i>                    |

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|----------------------------|-----------------------|
| <i>Steven Ultrino</i>      | <i>33rd Middlesex</i> |
| <i>Andres X. Vargas</i>    | <i>3rd Essex</i>      |
| <i>Aaron Vega</i>          | <i>5th Hampden</i>    |
| <i>John C. Velis</i>       | <i>4th Hampden</i>    |
| <i>RoseLee Vincent</i>     | <i>16th Suffolk</i>   |
| <i>Tommy Vitolo</i>        | <i>15th Norfolk</i>   |
| <i>Bud L. Williams</i>     | <i>11th Hampden</i>   |
| <i>Jonathan D. Zlotnik</i> | <i>2nd Worcester</i>  |

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 1173**

By Mr. Livingstone of Boston, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 1173) of Jay D. Livingstone and others relative to applications for nutrition assistance and the development of a common application portal for state-administered needs-based benefits and services. Health Care Financing.

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

**In the One Hundred and Ninety-First General Court  
(2019-2020)**

An Act improving public health through a common application for core food, health and safety-net programs.

*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 is hereby amended by adding after  
2 Section 77 the following section:-

3 Section 78 A. In order to improve access to federal nutrition assistance and reduce health  
4 care costs due to lack of adequate nutrition, the Division of Medicaid shall offer both applicants  
5 and recipients of MassHealth and Medicare Savings Program, also known as MassHealth Buy-  
6 In, the option to both (a) initiate an application for federal supplemental nutrition assistance  
7 program benefits at the time of application or renewal for medical assistance and (b) authorize  
8 the division to submit said application to the department of transitional assistance. The option to  
9 apply for nutrition assistance shall be offered to applicants and recipients for medical assistance  
10 whose reported gross income is below two hundred percent of the federal poverty level.

11 With the consent of said applicant or recipient, the division shall share relevant financial  
12 and other eligibility information and supporting documentation that may be required to qualify  
13 the applicant or recipient for supplemental nutrition assistance benefits. The department of  
14 transitional assistance shall promptly inform said applicant of the eligibility requirements and  
15 any additional verifications or obligations.

16 SECTION 2: Chapter 118E of the General Laws is hereby amended by adding after  
17 Section 77 the following section:-

18 Section 78 B. Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, the executive  
19 office of health and human services and the executive office of communities and development  
20 shall initiate development of a common application portal for individuals to simultaneously  
21 apply for state-administered needs-based benefits and services in coordination with the division  
22 of Medicaid, the department of transitional assistance, the department of early education and  
23 care, the executive office of education and the department of housing and community  
24 development. The common application shall allow individuals the option to apply at the same  
25 time for MassHealth coverage, the supplemental nutrition assistance program, income supports  
26 under Chapters 117A and 118 of the General Laws, veterans services benefits under Chapter 115  
27 of the General Laws, child care subsidies, housing subsidies, fuel assistance and other needs-  
28 based health care, nutrition and shelter benefits.

29 SECTION 3: Section 1C of Chapter 69 of the General Laws is hereby amended by  
30 adding the following paragraphs after the first paragraph in this section:

31 The board shall further require that all public schools that participate in the national  
32 school lunch program include with the application forms offered to families, either electronically

33 or on paper, information on the availability of the federal supplemental nutrition assistance  
34 program. The application materials should include information that clearly explains how families  
35 may apply for said nutrition program directly or through an outreach partner designated by the  
36 department of transitional assistance, and information advising families that receipt of said  
37 nutrition benefit automatically provides free meal status for students.

38           The department of early and secondary education shall develop a template application for  
39 the national school lunch program that shall include an option for a family to give permission to  
40 the school district to share his or her name, address and contact information with an community  
41 organization approved to do application assistance for the supplemental nutrition assistance  
42 program, as determined by the department of transitional assistance. The department shall  
43 promote this revised application to all school districts and shall encourage them to share this  
44 form with families applying for the national school lunch program.