

HOUSE No. 3042

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Nick Collins

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 relating to online mandated reporter training and neglect panel.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:
<i>Nick Collins</i>	<i>4th Suffolk</i>
<i>Jose F. Tosado</i>	<i>9th Hampden</i>
<i>John H. Rogers</i>	<i>12th Norfolk</i>
<i>John J. Lawn, Jr.</i>	<i>10th Middlesex</i>
<i>Brian M. Ashe</i>	<i>2nd Hampden</i>
<i>James M. Cantwell</i>	<i>4th Plymouth</i>
<i>Danielle W. Gregoire</i>	<i>4th Middlesex</i>
<i>Louis L. Kafka</i>	<i>8th Norfolk</i>
<i>Tricia Farley-Bouvier</i>	<i>3rd Berkshire</i>
<i>Joan B. Lovely</i>	<i>Second Essex</i>
<i>Timothy R. Whelan</i>	<i>1st Barnstable</i>
<i>Michael O. Moore</i>	<i>Second Worcester</i>
<i>Marjorie C. Decker</i>	<i>25th Middlesex</i>
<i>James J. O'Day</i>	<i>14th Worcester</i>
<i>Sal N. DiDomenico</i>	<i>Middlesex and Suffolk</i>
<i>Linda Dorcena Forry</i>	<i>First Suffolk</i>

HOUSE No. 3042

By Mr. Collins of Boston, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 3042) of Nick Collins and others relative to online mandated child abuse reporter training. The Judiciary.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

An Act relating to online mandated reporter training and neglect panel.

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. Section 7 of said chapter 18B, is hereby amended by adding at the end
2 thereof the following subsection:-

3 “(o) The commissioner, in consultation with the child advocate and other agencies the
4 commissioner deems relevant, including, but not limited to, the Massachusetts District Attorneys
5 Association, the Massachusetts chapter of the National Association of Social Workers, the
6 Massachusetts Medical Society, the Massachusetts Teachers’ Association and private child
7 service providers shall, if available, adapt, implement and maintain from another state agency or
8 from any suitable program already in use in another state a free standardized online training
9 program to be completed by all mandated reporters as defined in section 21 of chapter 119, and
10 as referenced in section 51A(k) of chapter 119; provided, however, that if the commissioner
11 cannot find an existing program to adapt to this purpose, then the commissioner shall create,
12 implement, maintain and update such an online training program.

13 SECTION 2. Said chapter 119 is hereby further amended by striking out subsection (k) of
14 section 51A, as so appearing, and inserting in place thereof the following paragraph:-

15 “(k) A mandated reporter shall successfully complete the training referenced in section
16 2(e) of chapter 18C by July 1, 2018, and every year thereafter to recognize and report suspected
17 child abuse and neglect. Beginning on July 1, 2017, any mandated reporter who applies for or
18 renews a professional license shall provide evidence of successful completion of this training.”.
19 Successful completion of this training may be used towards continuing education unit
20 requirements.

21 SECTION 3. Chapter 18C of the General Laws, is hereby amended by inserting after
22 section 4 the following section:-

23 “Section 4A. (a) There shall be a child abuse and neglect expert review panel, hereinafter
24 referred to as the panel, under the purview of the child advocate, who shall serve as chair. The
25 members of the panel shall include: the commissioner of the department of children and families
26 or designee, the executive director of the Children’s Trust Fund or designee, the medical director
27 of the department of children and families, a social worker with a minimum of 10 years direct
28 case work experience who shall be selected by the child advocate, and any other member that the
29 child advocate deems necessary.

30 (b) The panel shall review the repeated entry of any child into the care of the department
31 of children and families. Any open or closed cases within a 12 month period for the same child
32 or the same family unit shall constitute repeated entry. The panel shall determine if any actions
33 can be taken to protect the child from further harm or if any agency regulations should be
34 modified. The panel’s review and determinations shall be kept confidential.

35 (c) The panel shall also report on any system-wide trends that are affecting families,
36 agency service gaps, and recommendations for policy changes to rectify the repeated abuse and
37 neglect of children as part of the annual report as established in section 10 of this chapter.

38 (d) The child advocate may convene a public meeting or oversight hearing to discuss any
39 trends in child welfare, gather the public's input or determine if further actions should be taken
40 to improve the lives of the children in the care and custody of the commonwealth. Any findings
41 shall be included in the annual report as established in section 10 of this chapter.”.