

SENATE No. 121

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Kelly A. Dooner

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 strengthening social security number verification for cash assistance eligibility.

PETITION OF:

NAME:

Kelly A. Dooner

DISTRICT/ADDRESS:

Third Bristol and Plymouth

SENATE No. 121

By Ms. Dooner, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 121) of Kelly A. Dooner for legislation to strengthen social security number verification for cash assistance eligibility. Children, Families and Persons with Disabilities.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

An Act strengthening social security number verification for cash assistance eligibility.

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 33 of Chapter 18 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2022 Official Edition,
2 is hereby amended by striking the section in its entirety and inserting in place thereof the
3 following:-

4 Section 33. The department shall require applicants or recipients of cash assistance to
5 provide their Social Security Number upon application; provided, however, that this section shall
6 not apply to recipients who are present in the United States as a victim of domestic violence who
7 has a pending petition for legal status under the federal Violence Against Women Act. The
8 department shall provide a 3-month temporary placeholder Social Security Number only for
9 applicants or recipients who are expectant mothers in the third trimester of pregnancy or a child
10 under 4 months of age. Failure to provide a valid Social Security Number within 3 months shall
11 result in the immediate suspension of benefits until a valid and verifiable Social Security Number
12 is provided. The department shall be required to verify all Social Security Numbers provided by

13 applicants or recipients through federal databases, including but not limited to: (1) The Social
14 Security Administration (SSA) to confirm identity and citizenship status; (2) The National
15 Directory of New Hires (NDNH) to verify earned income; (3) The Social Security Death Master
16 File to detect fraudulent claims; and (4) State and federal incarceration databases to identify
17 disqualified applicants. The department shall promulgate regulations to implement and enforce
18 the provisions of this section.