HOUSE DOCKET, NO. 1645 FILED ON: 1/20/2011

HOUSE . . . . . No. 976

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Paul J. Donato

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 passage of the accompanying:

An Act relative to the financial support of foster childen.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:
Paul J. Donato	*35th Middlesex*
Elizabeth A. Malia	*11th Suffolk*
Anne M. Gobi	*5th Worcester*
Stephen Stat Smith	*28th Middlesex*
Frank I. Smizik	*15th Norfolk*
Tom Sannicandro	*7th Middlesex*
Linda Dorcena Forry	*12th Suffolk*
James J. Dwyer	*30th Middlesex*
Sean Garballey	*23rd Middlesex*
Ruth B. Balser	*12th Middlesex*
John W. Scibak	*2nd Hampshire*
James J. O'Day	*14th Worcester*
Jennifer L. Flanagan	
	☐ *[District]*
	☐

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HOUSE . . . . . No. 976

By Mr. Donato of Medford, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 976) of Paul J. Donato and others relative to financial assistance provided to foster children. Children, Families and Persons with Disabilities.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

An Act relative to the financial support of foster childen.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

SECTION 1.:- Section 23 of Chapter 119 as appearing in the 2009 Official Edition shall be amended by striking part (h) in it's entirety and inserting in place thereof the following new section.

(h) The department shall, provide assistance to foster care families which, within two years of the effective date of this act, shall include maintenance payments at or above the most recent estimated average daily expenditure for a child in the Urban Northeast in the middle income range as reported by the United States Department of Agriculture. The department shall periodically review the level of assistance including maintenance payments provided to adoptive and guardianship families and may, subject to appropriation, and consistent with federal law and policy, adjust such assistance as warranted by the financial circumstances of the family, the needs of the child or the rate of inflation.