

HOUSE No. 3433

By Mr. Murphy of Brockton, petition of James R. Lawton and Paul Maurice Murphy that foster parents be granted an option to adopt any child in care under certain conditions. Social Welfare.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Seventy-Two.

AN ACT PERMITTING FOSTER PARENTS TO BE GRANTED AN OPTION TO ADOPT ANY CHILD IN CARE UNDER CERTAIN CONDITIONS.

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

1 Chapter 210 of the General Laws is amended by adding after
2 section 5C the following section: —

3 *Section 5D.* Foster parents who have received a child or
4 children in care by the department pending their placement by
5 the department for adoption shall be entitled to exercise an
6 option to adopt by notifying the department in writing of their
7 desire to adopt said child or children, said option shall be in
8 effect only if said child has been eligible for adoption for at
9 least three months and has been in a home of the foster parent
10 or parents for eighteen months. The foster parent or shall be
11 advised at any time by the department of the availability of
12 the child or children upon their request.

