

# MASSACHUSETTS PARENTAGE ACT

HD.1842/SD.1234

LEAD SPONSORS: SEN. BRUCE TARR AND REP. KAY KHAN

*Protecting children's parental relationships*

## Bill Summary

There are many paths to parenthood and many types of families in the Commonwealth, but Massachusetts statutes have not kept pace with modern science and the diversity of our families, leaving children vulnerable.

**The Massachusetts Parentage Act (MPA)** updates Massachusetts statutes to clarify who can be a parent and how to establish parentage. This bill is critical to ensuring that all children can access the security of legal parentage, regardless of the circumstances of their birth.

**This bill is based on the Uniform Parentage Act (UPA)**, which serves as a uniform framework for ensuring the protection of the relationship between parents and children. Originally passed in 1973 to protect children born to unmarried people, the UPA was most recently revised and approved in 2017. Several of our neighboring states, including Vermont and Maine, have passed similar parentage legislation.

## Paths to Parentage Under the MPA

- **The MPA provides a path to parentage** through birth, adoption, acknowledgment, adjudication, genetics, assisted reproduction, surrogacy, de facto parentage, and presumptions (including a marital presumption).
- **The MPA provides clear standards for family courts** to apply in order to establish parentage.

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## Key Highlights of the MPA

- **Ensures that children born through assisted reproduction technology** (such as in vitro fertilization) have a clear route to establish their parentage.
- **Provides clear standards** for establishing parentage through **surrogacy**.
- **Ensures equality for LGBTQ families** so they can establish their parentage like other families, including through a voluntary acknowledgement of parentage
- **Provides a clear standard for courts** to resolve competing claims of parentage
- **Codifies parentage precedents** from the Supreme Judicial Court
- **Ensures greater efficiency and consistency** in our courts and reduces unnecessary litigation

## AS OF JANUARY 2021, THE MASSACHUSETTS PARENTAGE ACT IS SUPPORTED BY:

Academy of Adoption & Assisted Reproduction Attorneys | American Society for Reproductive Medicine | Association of Family & Conciliation Courts MA | Boston Alliance of LGBTQ Youth (BAGLY) | The Center for Surrogacy & Egg Donation | Circle Surrogacy | ConceiveAbilities | Fenway Health | Fertility Within Reach | GLBTQ Legal Advocates & Defenders (GLAD) | Greater Boston Family Law American Inn of Court | Kauffman Law & Mediation | Massachusetts LGBTQ Bar Association | MassEquality | Modern Family Law | New England Fertility Society | New England Surrogacy | Nichols, DeLisle & Lightholder P.C. | OUT MetroWest | Resolve New England

## MASSACHUSETTS PARENTAGE ACT COALITION



If you wish to support the MPA or have any questions, visit [massparentage.com](http://massparentage.com) or contact: Kate Weldon LeBlanc at Resolve New England [kwleblanc@resolvenewengland.org](mailto:kwleblanc@resolvenewengland.org)