

HOUSE No. 141

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Elizabeth A. Poirier

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 relative to ensuring the safety of residents of facilities under the authority of the Department of Mental Health and the Department of Developmental Services.

PETITION OF:

NAME:

DISTRICT/ADDRESS:

Elizabeth A. Poirier

14th Bristol

Stephen L. DiNatale

3rd Worcester

HOUSE No. 141

By Ms. Poirier of North Attleborough, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 141) of Elizabeth A. Poirier and Stephen L. DiNatale relative to continuously monitoring the entrances, exits, and common areas of all facilities operated under the authority of the Department of Mental Health and the Department of Developmental Services. Children, Families and Persons with Disabilities.

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION
SEE HOUSE, NO. 4181 OF 2011-2012.]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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In the Year Two Thousand Thirteen
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An Act relative to ensuring the safety of residents of facilities under the authority of the Department of Mental Health and the Department of Developmental Services.

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. Chapter 19 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2010 Official Edition,
2 is hereby amended by inserting at the end thereof, the following new section:-

3 Section 25.

4 (a) For the purposes of this section, the following word shall have the following meaning:
5 “common areas”, an area of a facility that all residents share, including but not limited to dining
6 areas, recreational areas, meeting areas, and hallways.

7 (b) Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, video cameras shall be
8 installed at all entrances, exits, and common areas of private facilities licensed by the department
9 of mental health, pursuant to section 19, and at the entrances, exits, and common areas of all
10 facilities under the authority of the department of mental health and the department of
11 developmental services, including community-based residential homes, group homes, and
12 inpatient facilities, for the purposes of continuously monitoring the entrances, exits, and common
13 areas of these facilities. The commissioners of the department of mental health and the

14 department of developmental services, in consultation with the executive office of public safety
15 and security, shall establish a system for maintaining the recorded images produced by
16 continuous video monitoring and shall coordinate in promulgating rules and regulations
17 consistent with this section.