

SENATE No. 143

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Michael F. Rush

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 establishing the Massachusetts Veterans Assistance Trust Fund.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:
<i>Michael F. Rush</i>	<i>Norfolk and Suffolk</i>
<i>Linda Campbell</i>	<i>15th Essex</i>
<i>Angelo J. Puppolo, Jr.</i>	<i>12th Hampden</i>
<i>Martin J. Walsh</i>	<i>13th Suffolk</i>
<i>Peter V. Kocot</i>	<i>1st Hampshire</i>
<i>Dennis A. Rosa</i>	<i>4th Worcester</i>
<i>Sal N. DiDomenico</i>	<i>Middlesex and Suffolk</i>
<i>James J. Dwyer</i>	<i>30th Middlesex</i>
<i>Randy Hunt</i>	<i>5th Barnstable</i>
<i>Christopher G. Fallon</i>	<i>33rd Middlesex</i>
<i>Denise C. Garlick</i>	<i>13th Norfolk</i>
<i>Thomas J. Calter</i>	<i>12th Plymouth</i>
<i>Jerald A. Parisella</i>	<i>6th Essex</i>
<i>Walter F. Timilty</i>	<i>7th Norfolk</i>
<i>Barry R. Finegold</i>	<i>Second Essex and Middlesex</i>
<i>Thomas A. Golden, Jr.</i>	<i>16th Middlesex</i>
<i>James E. Timilty</i>	<i>Bristol and Norfolk</i>
<i>Danielle W. Gregoire</i>	<i>4th Middlesex</i>

Carolyn C. Dykema

8th Middlesex

Bruce E. Tarr

First Essex and Middlesex

SENATE No. 143

By Mr. Rush, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 143) of Michael F. Rush, Linda Campbell, Angelo J. Puppolo, Jr., Martin J. Walsh and other members of the General Court for legislation to establish the Massachusetts Veterans Assistance Trust Fund. Consumer Protection and Professional Licensure.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand Thirteen

An Act establishing the Massachusetts Veterans Assistance Trust Fund.

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 10 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2010 Official Edition,
2 is hereby amended by inserting after section 27A the following section:-

3 Section 27B. The commission shall offer a special instant lottery scratch ticket for the
4 benefit of Massachusetts veterans and their families. The ticket shall commence on May 1 and
5 continue through May 31 each year and again commence on November 1 and continue through
6 November 30 each year to correspond with Memorial and Veterans Day. The profits from such
7 lottery shall be deposited in the Massachusetts Veterans Assistance Trust Fund, established by
8 section 2 of this act.

9 Revenues credited to the fund shall be deposited into said fund and shall include gifts,
10 grants, and awards from any public or private entity, or interest from the fund.

11 During the periods in which tickets are sold for said special instant lottery scratch ticket,
12 the commission shall not unreasonably diminish the efforts devoted to marketing any other
13 instant scratch-off lottery game.

14 SECTION 2. Said chapter 10 is hereby further amended, as so appearing, by inserting
15 after section 35UU the following section:-

16 Section 35VV. There shall established upon the books of the Commonwealth an
17 expendable trust, to be known as the Massachusetts Veterans Assistance Trust Fund, the purpose
18 of which is to administer grants, fund additional services, or conduct research relating to, but not

19 inclusive of, the following: (i) veterans' mental health and substance abuse; (ii) veterans'
20 housing and homelessness; (iii) veterans' health insurance; (iv) veterans' disability benefits,
21 including but not limited to disability benefits provided by veterans assistance commissions,
22 organizations or centers; (vii) long-term care of veterans; (vii) veteran employment and
23 employment training; (ix) veterans' education; (x) Gold Star family support; (xi) Massachusetts
24 War Memorial Commission.

25 In order to expend funds from this expendable trust, the secretary of veterans' services
26 shall appoint a three member funding authorization committee. The Secretary shall be a member
27 and act as the chairperson of the committee. One member of the committee shall be a member of
28 the Veterans' Advisory Council who shall be appointed by the governor. One member of the
29 committee shall be a veteran representative of the public with no financial interest in funding
30 programs and services, who shall be appointed by the governor. No member of the legislature
31 shall serve on the committee. The committee shall authorize expenditure of funds from this
32 special fund from an application process developed and administered by the committee.

33 A percentage of the funds, to be determined by the treasurer of the commonwealth, shall
34 be collected from lottery ticket sales pursuant to Section 27B and shall be expended prior to May
35 1 of the following year. Moneys collected from this special instant scratch-off game shall be used
36 only as a supplemental financial resource and shall not supplant existing moneys that the
37 department of veterans services may currently expend for the purposes set forth in items (i)
38 through (x).

39 SECTION 3. This act shall take effect upon passage.