

HOUSE No. 4155

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, April 4, 2016.

The committee on the Elder Affairs to whom were referred the petition (accompanied by resolve, Senate, No. 351) of Harriette L. Chandler, Barbara L'Italien, Michael O. Moore, Angelo J. Puppolo, Jr. and other members of the General Court for legislation to create a special commission on institutional long term care; the petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 357) of Patricia D. Jehlen, Denise Provost, Tricia Farley-Bouvier, James B. Eldridge and other members of the General Court for legislation to promote the development of small house nursing homes in the Commonwealth; the petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 358) of Patricia D. Jehlen, Denise Provost and Barbara L'Italien for legislation to establish an advisory committee on residential care facilities; the petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 368) of Bruce E. Tarr for legislation to create a statewide assisted living facility master plan; the petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 521) of Jonathan Hecht and others for an investigation by a special commission (including members of the General Court) relative to institutional long term care; the petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 533) of Tom Sannicandro for legislation to develop recommendations for the implementation of a self-determination model within the Department of Elder Affairs; and the petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 534) of Theodore C. Speliotis and others that the Division of Medical Assistance be directed to provide coverage for residential habilitation services for individuals age sixty or older, reports recommending that the accompanying bill (House, No. 4155) ought to pass.

For the committee,

DENISE C. GARLICK.

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**In the One Hundred and Eighty-Ninth General Court
(2015-2016)**

An Act creating a task force on Massachusetts older adults of all incomes.

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. (a) There shall be established a task force on older adults of all incomes,
2 which shall be a special legislative commission pursuant to section 2A of chapter 4 of the
3 General Laws, which shall study the characteristics of older adults and subpopulations of older
4 adults in the Commonwealth including, but not limited to, demographic profiles; their program
5 and support needs related to aging; the places in which they live; their retirement and paid and
6 unpaid work status; and the ways they engage meaningfully in their communities and
7 environments. The term “older adults” shall mean persons who are 60 years of age or older.

8 (b) The task force shall collect, research and analyze data on topics listed in, but not
9 limited to, subsection (a) of this section: (1) to establish current benchmarks, (2) to identify
10 strengths, areas that need to be strengthened and gaps, (3) to project trends and (4) to identify the
11 current and future needs of older adults.

12 (c) The task force shall make recommendations for strategies to achieve a balanced array
13 of culturally competent services and opportunities for older adults, across all income levels and

14 other characteristics, so that they will be able to meet their needs, consistent with their choices,
15 finances and functional abilities.

16 (d) The task force shall consist of 12 members as follows: the house and senate chairs of
17 the joint committee on elder affairs or their designees, who shall serve as co-chairs; the secretary
18 of elder affairs or a designee; the assistant secretary for MassHealth or a designee; the secretary
19 of veterans' services or a designee, the director of the Gerontology Institute at the University of
20 Massachusetts Boston or a designee; the president of the Tufts Health Plan Foundation or a
21 designee; the president of the Blue Cross Blue Shield Foundation of Massachusetts or a
22 designee; 1 older adult board member of a local council on aging who shall be designated by the
23 Massachusetts Association of Councils on Aging and who shall not be an employee or paid
24 consultant of the Association or of a local council on aging or of a senior center; 1 older adult
25 member of the Massachusetts Senior Action Council, who shall not be an employee or paid
26 consultant of the Senior Action Council; 1 member of AARP Massachusetts, who shall not be an
27 employee or paid consultant of AARP and who shall be an unpaid family or friend caregiver of
28 an older adult; 1 older adult member of the Multicultural Coalition on Aging, who shall be an
29 individual member of the Coalition and who shall not be an employee or paid consultant of the
30 Coalition or of any of its member organizations.

31 (e) The first meeting of the task force shall take place within 60 days of the effective date
32 of this section. The task force may establish advisory committees, and hold regular public
33 meetings, fact-finding hearings and other public forums as it considers necessary. The task force
34 may report from time to time, but shall file its final report with the governor, the speaker of the
35 house of representatives, the senate president and the clerks of the house of representatives and
36 senate not later than eighteen months after the date on which the task force is first convened. The

37 final report shall include, but shall not be limited to, the task force's activities, findings and
38 recommendations for legislation, if any. The task force shall expire on July 31, 2018.