

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 1951**

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The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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**In the Year Two Thousand Nine**  
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An Act relative to services for persons with mental illness who are living with older family members or primary caretakers..

*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 is hereby amended by inserting after  
2 section 21 the following new section:—Section 22. The department shall provide the option of  
3 residential and day services to all individuals who meet the department's eligibility criteria and  
4 who are living in the community with a family member or other primary caretaker, when said  
5 family member or primary caretaker reaches the age of 65, or extenuating medical or other  
6 circumstances create either stresses to the parent or caretaker to an unreasonable degree or an  
7 environment that is unsafe or detrimental to either to caregiver or the person with mental  
8 illness.Nothing in this section shall be construed so as to eliminate or reduce services to any  
9 other segment of the population which the department serves.