

HOUSE No. 4284

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand Nine

An Act Relative to Dementia Patients in longterm Care Facilities..

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 111 of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after
2 section 71B the following sections:-

3 Section 71C. (a) Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, the
4 department of public health, in consultation with the Alzheimer's Association of Massachusetts
5 and representatives from the nursing home provider community, shall adopt regulations to
6 establish minimum standards for dementia special care units to ensure safety and quality of
7 services including:

8 1. Dementia-specific training for all direct care workers, activities directors and
9 supervisors of direct care workers in both traditional nursing homes and dementia special care
10 units (SCUs).

11 Activities programs in SCUs that provide dementia-specific activities.

12 3. Guidelines for SCU physical design including but not limited to anti-wandering
13 methods and a therapeutic environment.

14 (b) A licensee under section 71 that holds itself out to the public or advertises that it is a
15 provider of specialized services and programming for dementia special care units in long term
16 care facilities must meet the standards set forth under this section in order to provide said
17 services. Nursing homes that operate SCUs must disclose to consumers and the Massachusetts
18 Department of Public Health what specialized services the SCU provides for patients affected by
19 Alzheimer's and related dementias.

20 Section 710. A licensee of the Department of Public Health under section 71 shall be
21 required to provide dementia specific training for all direct care workers, activities directors and
22 supervisors of direct care workers in both traditional nursing homes and dementia special care
23 units (SCUs).

24 SECTION 2. The department of public health shall adopt its Initial regulations to
25 implement this act not later than January 1, 2010.