

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 4342**

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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 COMMUNITY HOUSING AND 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           The Executive Office of Health and Human Services, Executive Office of Housing and  
2 Economic Development, the Executive Office of Elder Affairs, the Executive Office of Veterans  
3 Services, the Department of Housing and Community Development, the Department of  
4 Transitional Assistance, the Department of Developmental Services, the Department of Mental  
5 Health, the Department of Children and Families, the Department of Public Health, the  
6 Department of Correction, the Massachusetts Rehabilitation Commission, Massachusetts  
7 Commission for the Blind, Massachusetts Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, the  
8 Massachusetts Housing Finance Agency, the Massachusetts Housing Partnership and the  
9 Community Economic Development Assistance Corporation shall develop and execute a  
10 memorandum of understanding which shall include an action plan to coordinate the procurement  
11 and availability of community based supportive services, capital subsidies, and operating  
12 subsidies for new and existing housing available to low and extremely low income residents to  
13 be known as the community housing and services memorandum of understanding. The

14 memorandum of understanding shall identify and resolve barriers and reduce fragmentation for  
15 the provision of community based supportive services and affordable housing.

16 The community housing and services memorandum of understanding shall be filed with  
17 the Governor, Lieutenant Governor, the Joint Committee on Housing, the Joint Committee on  
18 Elder Affairs, the Joint Committee on Children, Families and Persons with Disabilities, the  
19 Senate Committee on Ways and Means and the House Committee on Ways and Means no later  
20 than March 15, 2010.

21 Said memorandum shall facilitate the creation of a demonstration program that creates no  
22 less than one thousand units of permanent supported housing that includes coordinated operating,  
23 capital subsidies and voluntary community based supportive services within three years of  
24 enactment of this act, provided that the aforementioned agencies shall assess the need for  
25 permanent supportive housing to serve the Commonwealth's homeless, people with disabilities,  
26 and elders and shall establish a long range target to produce new supportive housing  
27 opportunities to meet the Commonwealth's need.

28 Community based supportive services shall include, but need not be limited to: resident  
29 service coordinators, housing support teams and other models to link low and extremely low  
30 income tenants with any services necessary to maintain their tenancy, or direct community-based  
31 social services or other services necessary to maintain a successful tenancy, provided that a  
32 tenant's receipt of services shall not be an eligibility requirement or a requirement of maintaining  
33 a tenancy under the plan.

34           The plan shall establish benchmarks to assess financial savings to the Commonwealth  
35 resulting from the avoidance of institutionalization, shelter, or nursing care due to the availability  
36 of community based housing support services.