

HOUSE No. 4559

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand Ten

An Act to Promote the Development of Small House Nursing Homes in Massachusetts..

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. For the purposes of this act, “small house nursing home” means a nursing
2 home licensed under Section 72 of Chapter 111 of the General Laws, that 1) consists of one or
3 more units designed and modeled as a private home including residential kitchen and living areas
4 which house no more than fourteen individuals in each unit, 2) includes only private rooms and
5 bathrooms, 3) establishes a self-directed model of care for residents that incorporates
6 collaborative decision making by residents and staff, 4) provide for a universal worker approach
7 to resident care that is organized to support and empower all staff to respond to the needs and
8 desires of residents; and 6) provides for consistent staff assignments.

9 Section 2. There is hereby established a task force on the Development of Small House
10 Nursing Homes. The purpose of the task force is to evaluate the prospects for and steps needed,
11 either administratively or through legislation, to support the development of Small House
12 Nursing Homes in the Commonwealth. The task force is charged with studying and
13 recommending strategies to promote the development of small house nursing homes in
14 Massachusetts which include but shall not be limited to:

15 the establishment of an add-on to rates of reimbursement for nursing facilities by the
16 Division of Health Care Finance and Policy that develop and operate small house nursing homes
17 to reflect the additional capital costs required in the construction of a small house nursing home.

18 The establishment of no or low-cost loans to develop small house nursing homes

19 Identification of other regulatory barriers that impede the ability to develop and operate
20 small house nursing homes

21 The task force shall be chaired by the Director of the Division of Health Care Safety and
22 Quality at the Department of Public Health, and shall include the commissioner of the Division
23 of Health Care Finance and Policy or a designee, the Director of MassHealth or a designee, the
24 Secretary of Elder Affairs, or a designee, the House and Senate chairs of the Committee on Elder
25 Affairs, at least one architect that has been involved with the development of a small house
26 nursing home, at least two providers that have developed or in the process of
27 developing/operating small house nursing homes, the president of MassAging or a designee, and
28 two residents of the Commonwealth to represent consumers appointed by the Secretary of Elder
29 Affairs.

30 The Task Force shall make a report with its recommendations to the Chairs of Ways and
31 Means and to the Secretary of Health and Human Services by March 30,2011.