

**SENATE . . . . . No. 279**

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**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

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PRESENTED BY:

***Mark C. Montigny***

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*To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in General Court assembled:*

The undersigned legislators and/or citizens respectfully petition for the adoption of the accompanying bill:

An Act to establish safe staffing levels at skilled nursing facilities.

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PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:
<i>Mark C. Montigny</i>	
<i>Sal N. DiDomenico</i>	<i>Middlesex and Suffolk</i>
<i>Carl M. Sciortino, Jr.</i>	<i>34th Middlesex</i>
<i>Tackey Chan</i>	<i>2nd Norfolk</i>
<i>Sonia Chang-Diaz</i>	

**SENATE . . . . . No. 279**

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By Mr. Montigny, petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 279) of Chang-Diaz, Chan, Sciortino and other members of the General Court for legislation to establish safe staffing levels at skilled nursing facilities [Joint Committee on Elder Affairs].

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**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

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**In the Year Two Thousand Eleven**  
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An Act to establish safe staffing levels at skilled nursing 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. The Department of Public Health shall establish minimum staffing  
2 requirements at Skilled Nursing Care Facilities and for all level I, II and III long-term care  
3 facilities (as defined at 105 CMR 150.001). Working with 1199SEIU and other appropriate  
4 stakeholders, the Department shall develop amendments to the existing Nursing Services  
5 regulations (105 CMR 150.007) that ensure these facilities employ an adequate number of  
6 nurses, certified nurse assistants, and other staff to both meet all patient needs and ensure that  
7 sufficient staff is working at any given time to safely meet those needs. Said amended  
8 regulations shall include specific standards and direct-care staff-to-patient ratios to ensure  
9 consistent delivery of quality care in a safe and sanitary facility. The Department shall issue  
10 public recommendations on these issues no later than six months following final passage of this  
11 Act.