HOUSE DOCKET, NO. 2741 FILED ON: 1/16/2015

# HOUSE . . . . . No. 529

## The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

***James J. O'Day and Patricia D. Jehlen***

*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 relative to assisting elders and people with disabilities in the Commonwealth.

PETITION OF:

| NAME: | DISTRICT/ADDRESS: | DATE ADDED: |
|---|---|---|
| *James J. O'Day* | *14th Worcester* | *1/16/2015* |
| *Patricia D. Jehlen* | *Second Middlesex* | *2/3/2015* |
| *Denise Provost* | *27th Middlesex* | *8/27/2019* |
| *Angelo J. Puppolo, Jr.* | *12th Hampden* | *8/27/2019* |
| *David M. Rogers* | *24th Middlesex* | *8/27/2019* |
| *Paul McMurtry* | *11th Norfolk* | *8/27/2019* |
| *Benjamin Swan* | *11th Hampden* | *8/27/2019* |
| *RoseLee Vincent* | *16th Suffolk* | *8/27/2019* |
| *Kay Khan* | *11th Middlesex* | *8/27/2019* |
| *Louis L. Kafka* | *8th Norfolk* | *8/27/2019* |
| *Chris Walsh* | *6th Middlesex* | *8/27/2019* |
| *Danielle W. Gregoire* | *4th Middlesex* | *8/27/2019* |
| *Gloria L. Fox* | *7th Suffolk* | *8/27/2019* |
| *Edward F. Coppinger* | *10th Suffolk* | *8/27/2019* |
| *James B. Eldridge* | *Middlesex and Worcester* | *8/27/2019* |
| *Jason M. Lewis* | *Fifth Middlesex* | *8/27/2019* |
| *Michael O. Moore* | *Second Worcester* | *8/27/2019* |
| *Mary S. Keefe* | *15th Worcester* | *8/27/2019* |

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|---|---|---|
| *Brian R. Mannal* | *2nd Barnstable* | *8/27/2019* |
| *Tom Sannicandro* | *7th Middlesex* | *8/27/2019* |
| *William N. Brownsberger* | *Second Suffolk and Middlesex* | *8/27/2019* |
| *Steven Ultrino* | *33rd Middlesex* | *8/27/2019* |
| *Timothy J. Toomey, Jr.* | *26th Middlesex* | *8/27/2019* |
| *Stephen L. DiNatale* | *3rd Worcester* | *8/27/2019* |
| *Daniel M. Donahue* | *16th Worcester* | *8/27/2019* |
| *Sean Garballey* | *23rd Middlesex* | *8/27/2019* |
| *Timothy R. Madden* | *Barnstable, Dukes and Nantucket* | *8/27/2019* |
| *Kenneth I. Gordon* | *21st Middlesex* | *8/27/2019* |
| *Christine P. Barber* | *34th Middlesex* | *8/27/2019* |
| *Marjorie C. Decker* | *25th Middlesex* | *8/27/2019* |
| *Jonathan Hecht* | *29th Middlesex* | *8/27/2019* |
| *Barbara A. L'Italien* | *Second Essex and Middlesex* | *8/27/2019* |
| *Patricia A. Haddad* | *5th Bristol* | *8/27/2019* |
| *Theodore C. Speliotis* | *13th Essex* | *8/27/2019* |
| *Joan B.  Lovely* | *Second Essex* | *8/27/2019* |
| *John J. Mahoney* | *13th Worcester* | *8/27/2019* |
| *Brian M. Ashe* | *2nd Hampden* | *8/27/2019* |
| *Marc R. Pacheco* | *First Plymouth and Bristol* | *8/27/2019* |
| *Sal N. DiDomenico* | *Middlesex and Suffolk* | *8/27/2019* |
| *Thomas M. Stanley* | *9th Middlesex* | *8/27/2019* |
| *Paul R. Heroux* | *2nd Bristol* | *8/27/2019* |

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# HOUSE . . . . . No. 529

By Representative O'Day of West Boylston and Senator Jehlen, a joint petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 529) of James J. O'Day, Patricia D. Jehlen and others for legislation to provide emergency aid to certain elderly and disabled residents. Elder Affairs.

## The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

**In the One Hundred and Eighty-Ninth General Court**
**(2015-2016)**

An Act relative to assisting elders and people with disabilities in the Commonwealth.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:*

SECTION 1. Section 1 of chapter 117A of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2012 Official Edition, is hereby amended by adding the following paragraph:-Any homeless person, (i) who has no established place of abode, or who lives in a temporary emergency shelter, and (ii) who is otherwise eligible under the provisions of this chapter, shall receive the same payment rate as recipients who incur shelter costs including, but not limited to rent or a mortgage. The department shall promulgate or revise any such rules and regulations necessary to implement the provisions of this section.

SECTION 2. Chapter 117A of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after section 10 the following new section:- Section 11. Effective July first of every year the department shall increase the total budget of each eligible recipient, before taking into consideration any available income and resources, by a percentage amount equal to the percentage rise in the United States Consumer Price Index for January first of that year over the

level of said index for January first of the previous year plus such additional percentage amount as is recommended annually by the department and appropriated by the general court. The department shall promulgate such rules and regulations to implement the provisions of this section.

SECTION 3. Chapter 117A of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after section 10 the following new section: Section 12. The combined assets of an assistance unit may not exceed $2,500. In determining countable assets, the department shall exclude the first $15,000 in fair market value of a vehicle; provided that the commissioner may grant a waiver for a vehicle with a market value in excess of $15,000 if the commissioner determines the vehicle is necessary for employment or because of other household circumstances.

SECTION 4. Chapter 117A of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after section 10 the following new section: Section 13. The department shall set the maximum benefit for the program in this chapter at the same level as the program in chapter 118 of the General Laws. The department shall promulgate such rules and regulations necessary to implement the provisions of this section.