HOUSE DOCKET, NO. 1267 FILED ON: 1/15/2015

HOUSE . . . . . No. 530

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Elizabeth A. Poirier

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 establishing multi-disciplinary teams with district attorneys to investigate elder abuse.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:
Elizabeth A. Poirier	*14th Bristol*
Tricia Farley-Bouvier	*3rd Berkshire*
Patricia A. Haddad	*5th Bristol*
Walter F. Timilty	*7th Norfolk*
Timothy R. Whelan	*1st Barnstable*
Susannah M. Whipps Lee	*2nd Franklin*

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HOUSE . . . . . No. 530

By Mrs. Poirier of North Attleborough, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 530) of Elizabeth A. Poirier and others relative to establishing multi-disciplinary teams with district attorneys to investigate elder abuse. Elder Affairs.

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION
SEE HOUSE, NO. *549* OF 2013-2014.]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

An Act relative to establishing multi-disciplinary teams with district attorneys to investigate elder abuse.

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 15 of Chapter 19A of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2012 Official Edition, is hereby amended by adding the following subsection:—

(g) The area director shall promptly advise the department and protective service agency along with the opinion of the director, evidences a pattern of abuse or neglect or an ongoing problem in need of attention. Subsequently, the director of the appropriate council on aging shall, in cooperation with the department and the appropriate district attorney, establish one or more multi-disciplinary service teams to review the provisions of services to the persons, their families or responsible parties who are the subject of such reports. Such teams shall consist of 1 representative of the agency who shall be the case worker for the particular case, 1 representative

10 of the appropriate district attorney, 1 representative of the appropriate council on aging and at
11 least 1 other member who is not an employee of any such office, who shall be appointed by the
12 department. The additional member shall have training and experience in the fields of elder
13 abuse, the provision of care to the elderly or criminal justice and, as far as practicable, be
14 involved with the provision of services to such families. No members of such team shall receive
15 any compensation, or in the case of a state employee, any additional compensation, for service
16 on such team. Such team shall review, evaluate and monitor the services provided to the person
17 named in the report in regard to their effectiveness in protecting the person and their family from
18 further abuse or neglect. Such team shall make recommendations regarding changes or additions
19 to the services provided, the advisability of prosecuting members of the family or responsible
20 party or parties and the possibility of utilizing diversionary alternatives. Such multi-disciplinary
21 service team shall have full access to any data know to the protective service agency which is
22 directly related to the provision of services to the persons named in the report, notwithstanding
23 any other general or special to the contrary. The members of such team shall be considered
24 employees of the protective service agency for the purposes of protecting the confidentiality of
25 such data and such data shall be utilized solely to carry out the purposes of this section, provided,
26 however, that such team may report to such district attorney the information that the family or
27 responsible party or parties have failed to participate in the provision of such services. Each team
28 shall file a monthly report with the secretary of elder affairs regarding the activities which have
29 occurred in the previous month pursuant to this section. Such report shall be written on a form
30 prescribed by said secretary. Said secretary after deleting all personal identifying information,
31 shall combine these reports into on monthly report which shall be filed with the secretary of

32 health and human services, each district attorney, the joint committee on human services and

33 elderly affairs, and the house and senate committees

34 on ways and means.