

HOUSE No.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Michael J. Finn

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 requiring certain group homes to provide community notice.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	DATE ADDED:
<i>Michael J. Finn</i>	<i>6th Hampden</i>	<i>2/9/2016</i>

HOUSE No.

By Mr. Finn of West Springfield, a petition (subject to Joint Rule 12) of Michael J. Finn that the Department of Mental Health be authorized to require certain group homes to provide community notices. Mental Health and Substance Abuse.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

An Act requiring certain group homes to provide community notice.

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. Subsection (a) of section 19 of chapter 19 of the General Laws, as
2 appearing in the 2014 Official Edition, is hereby amended by adding the following paragraph:-

3 The department shall require as a condition of the issuance of a license for any such
4 facility, department or ward that offers residential treatment or care services to the public that the
5 owner publish notice in a newspaper having a circulation in the city or town where the facility is
6 located no less than 30 days prior to operation. The notice shall provide: (i) the name of the
7 owner of the facility and the owner’s mission statement, if any; (ii) the facility’s stated purpose;
8 (iii) the names, phone numbers, email addresses or other means of contact for staff members
9 designated by the owner to answer questions and receive complaints from the residents of such
10 town, city or county; and (iv) the number of residents who will reside in the facility as well as the
11 number of employees present at the facility at all times. The department shall promulgate

12 regulations requiring that the same notice be published by any such facilities not required to be
13 licensed under clause (1) of the preceding paragraph.

14 SECTION 2. Subsection (a) of section 15 of chapter 19B of the General Laws, as so
15 appearing, is hereby amended by adding the following paragraph:-

16 The department shall require as a condition of the issuance of a license for any such
17 facility, department or ward that offers residential treatment or care services to the public that the
18 owner publish notice in a newspaper having a circulation in the city or town where the facility is
19 located no less than 30 days prior to operation. The notice shall provide: (i) the name of the
20 owner of the facility and the owner's mission statement, if any; (ii) the facility's stated purpose;
21 (iii) the names, phone numbers, email addresses or other means of contact for staff members
22 designated by the owner to answer questions and receive complaints from the residents of such
23 town, city or county; and (iv) the number of residents who will reside in the facility as well as the
24 number of employees present at the facility at all times. The department shall promulgate
25 regulations requiring that the same notice be published by any such facilities not required to be
26 licensed under clause (1) of the preceding paragraph.

27 SECTION 3. Section 6A of chapter 111B of the General Laws, as so appearing, is
28 hereby amended by inserting after the first paragraph the following paragraph:-

29 The department shall require as a condition of the issuance of a license for a halfway
30 house for alcoholics that the owner publish notice in a newspaper having a circulation in the city
31 or town where the house is located no less than 30 days prior to operation. The notice shall
32 provide: (i) the name of the owner of the halfway house for alcoholics and the owner's mission
33 statement, if any; (ii) the halfway house for alcoholics' stated purpose; (iii) the names, phone

34 numbers, email addresses or other means of contact for staff members designated by the owner
35 to answer questions and receive complaints from the residents of such town, city or county; and
36 (iv) the number of residents who will reside in the halfway house for alcoholics as well as the
37 number of employees present at the house at all times.