

HOUSE No. 596

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

James Arciero

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 social card games at municipal senior centers.

PETITION OF:

NAME:

James Arciero

DISTRICT/ADDRESS:

2nd Middlesex

HOUSE No. 596

By Mr. Arciero of Westford, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 596) of James Arciero relative to social card games, so-called, at municipal senior centers. Elder Affairs.

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION
SEE HOUSE, NO. 2067 OF 2017-2018.]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

**In the One Hundred and Ninety-First General Court
(2019-2020)**

An Act relative to social card games at municipal senior centers.

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

2 Chapter 271 of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after section 22B the
3 following section:-

4 Section 22C. (a) For purposes of this section, the term “social card game” shall mean a
5 card game, including but not limited to, poker, pinochle, bridge, rummy, canasta or hearts, in
6 which:

7 (i) the winnings of any player in a single game or session does not exceed \$50;

8 (ii) the amount of money contributed by a single player during the entire session is \$5 or
9 less;

10 (iii) all money wagered on the game is distributed to the players by the end of the session;

11 (iv) all players are natural persons who attend and compete in the game, in person, as a
12 contestant or bettor on equal terms with the other players therein without receiving or becoming
13 entitled to receive something of value or any profit therefrom other than his or her personal
14 winnings from the game; and

15 (iv) no person receives or becomes entitled to receive any profit, outside the winnings of
16 a player, for the arrangement or facilitation of the game or permitting the use of premises for the
17 game.

18 (v) the provisions of Section 22C of chapter 271 shall only apply to municipal senior
19 centers in the commonwealth.

20 (b) Nothing in this chapter shall authorize the prosecution, arrest or conviction of any
21 person for hosting or playing in a social card game in a public or private setting; provided,
22 however, private establishments may refuse to permit the playing of a social card game.