

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 621**

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

PRESENTED BY:

*James J. O'Day*

*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:
<i>James J. O'Day</i>	<i>14th Worcester</i>	<i>1/11/2019</i>
<i>Christine P. Barber</i>	<i>34th Middlesex</i>	<i>1/31/2019</i>
<i>Marjorie C. Decker</i>	<i>25th Middlesex</i>	<i>2/1/2019</i>
<i>Sal N. DiDomenico</i>	<i>Middlesex and Suffolk</i>	<i>2/1/2019</i>
<i>Tami L. Gouveia</i>	<i>14th Middlesex</i>	<i>1/30/2019</i>
<i>Jonathan Hecht</i>	<i>29th Middlesex</i>	<i>1/29/2019</i>
<i>Natalie M. Higgins</i>	<i>4th Worcester</i>	<i>1/30/2019</i>
<i>Russell E. Holmes</i>	<i>6th Suffolk</i>	<i>1/30/2019</i>
<i>Daniel J. Hunt</i>	<i>13th Suffolk</i>	<i>1/28/2019</i>
<i>Patricia D. Jehlen</i>	<i>Second Middlesex</i>	<i>2/1/2019</i>
<i>Louis L. Kafka</i>	<i>8th Norfolk</i>	<i>1/17/2019</i>
<i>Mary S. Keefe</i>	<i>15th Worcester</i>	<i>1/31/2019</i>
<i>Adrian C. Madaro</i>	<i>1st Suffolk</i>	<i>1/28/2019</i>
<i>Michael O. Moore</i>	<i>Second Worcester</i>	<i>2/1/2019</i>
<i>David M. Rogers</i>	<i>24th Middlesex</i>	<i>1/31/2019</i>
<i>Denise Provost</i>	<i>27th Middlesex</i>	<i>1/31/2019</i>
<i>Kay Khan</i>	<i>11th Middlesex</i>	<i>2/1/2019</i>
<i>Sean Garballey</i>	<i>23rd Middlesex</i>	<i>2/1/2019</i>

<i>Carlos González</i>	<i>10th Hampden</i>	<i>2/1/2019</i>
<i>Mike Connolly</i>	<i>26th Middlesex</i>	<i>2/1/2019</i>

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 621**

By Mr. O'Day of West Boylston, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 621) of James J. O'Day 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 Ninety-First General Court  
(2019-2020)**

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:*

1 SECTION 1. Section 1 of chapter 117A of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2016  
2 Official Edition, is hereby amended by adding the following paragraph:-

3 Any person experiencing homelessness, who (i) has no established place of abode, or  
4 lives in a temporary emergency shelter, and (ii) is otherwise eligible under the provisions of this  
5 chapter, shall receive the same payment rate as recipients who incur shelter costs including, but  
6 not limited to, rent or a mortgage. The department shall promulgate or revise any such rules and  
7 regulations necessary to implement the provisions of this section.

8 SECTION 2. Chapter 117A of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2016 Official  
9 Edition, is hereby amended by inserting after section 10 the following new section:-

10 Section 11. Effective July first of every year the department shall increase the total  
11 budget of each eligible recipient, before taking into consideration any available income and  
12 resources, by a percentage amount equal to the percentage rise in the United States Consumer

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

17 SECTION 3. Chapter 117A of the General Laws, as so appearing, is hereby amended by  
18 inserting after section 10 the following new section:-

19 Section 12. The combined assets of an assistance unit may not exceed \$2,500. In  
20 determining countable assets, the department shall exclude the first \$15,000 in fair market value  
21 of a vehicle; provided that the commissioner may grant a waiver for a vehicle with a market  
22 value in excess of \$15,000 if the commissioner determines the vehicle is necessary for  
23 employment or because of other household circumstances.

24 SECTION 4. Chapter 117A of the General Laws, as so appearing, is hereby amended by  
25 inserting after section 10 the following new section:-

26 Section 13. The department shall set the maximum benefit for the program in this chapter  
27 at the same level as the program under chapter 118 of the General Laws. The department shall  
28 promulgate such rules and regulations necessary to implement the provisions of this section.