

SENATE No. 671

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Julian Cyr

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 the nursing home quality jobs initiative.

PETITION OF:

| NAME: | DISTRICT/ADDRESS: | |
|-----------------------------|--|------------------|
| <i>Julian Cyr</i> | <i>Cape and Islands</i> | |
| <i>Anne M. Gobi</i> | <i>Worcester, Hampden, Hampshire and Middlesex</i> | <i>1/29/2019</i> |
| <i>Michael J. Rodrigues</i> | <i>First Bristol and Plymouth</i> | <i>1/29/2019</i> |
| <i>Walter F. Timilty</i> | <i>Norfolk, Bristol and Plymouth</i> | <i>1/31/2019</i> |
| <i>Joanne M. Comerford</i> | <i>Hampshire, Franklin and Worcester</i> | <i>1/31/2019</i> |
| <i>Eric P. Lesser</i> | <i>First Hampden and Hampshire</i> | <i>2/1/2019</i> |
| <i>Cindy F. Friedman</i> | <i>Fourth Middlesex</i> | <i>2/1/2019</i> |
| <i>Jack Patrick Lewis</i> | <i>7th Middlesex</i> | <i>2/1/2019</i> |

SENATE No. 671

By Mr. Cyr, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 671) of Julian Cyr, Anne M. Gobi, Michael J. Rodrigues, Walter F. Timilty and other members of the General Court for legislation relative to the nursing home quality jobs initiative. Health Care Financing.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

An Act relative to the nursing home quality jobs initiative.

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. Chapter 118E of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2016 Official
2 Edition, is hereby amended by inserting at the end thereof the following new section: -

3 Section 78. MassHealth shall annually fund a rate add-on that establishes a living wage,
4 benefits and related employee costs for direct care staff of licensed nursing homes, including
5 certified nurse aides, housekeeping, laundry and dietary staff. MassHealth shall, subject to
6 appropriation, adjust the annual direct care labor add-on with an inflation adjustment consistent
7 with the annual unadjusted Skilled Nursing Facility Market Basket Update as established by the
8 Centers for Medicare & Medicaid in the Medicare Skilled Nursing Facility prospective payment
9 system rule. MassHealth shall adopt all additional regulations and procedures necessary to carry
10 out this section, including audits, and shall report to the house and senate committees on ways
11 and means an analysis of funds expended under the direct care add on program.

12 SECTION 2. Chapter 111 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2016 Official Edition,
13 is hereby amended by inserting after section 4O the following new section:-

14 Section 4P. The Department shall, subject to appropriation, establish a scholarship
15 program for certified nurses' aide and direct care worker training. The department shall establish
16 appropriate guidelines and application criteria for the administration of the program. The
17 scholarships shall cover the full cost of tuition to an approved certified nurses' aide or long-term
18 care direct worker training program, including approved programs providing for cross-training.
19 Funds may also be available to provide adult basic education and English as a second language
20 training for applicants otherwise meeting criteria for the scholarships, as well as pilot training
21 programs using enhanced curricula designed to support increased retention. The department
22 shall, in consultation with the nursing home sector, consumer groups, the department of labor
23 and workforce development, the Commonwealth Corporation, training providers and other
24 appropriate state and local agencies, conduct outreach regarding the availability of such
25 scholarships. The costs for outreach activities shall not exceed 3 per cent of the amount of the
26 program and administrative costs of the program shall not exceed 3 per cent of the amount of the
27 program.

28 SECTION 3. Chapter 23 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2016 Official Edition,
29 is hereby amended by inserting after section 9U the following new section:-

30 Section 9V. The Executive Office of Labor and Workforce Development through the
31 Commonwealth Corporation shall, subject to appropriation, establish a grant program for nursing
32 facility supervisory and leadership training. The program shall, but not be limited to, covering

- 33 the cost of nursing facility worker participation in evidence-based supervisory training for the
- 34 express purpose of improving staff satisfaction, retaining staff and reducing turnover.