

SENATE No. 791

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Diana DiZoglio

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 establishing a task force on elderly and disabled persons residing in public housing.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	
<i>Diana DiZoglio</i>	<i>First Essex</i>	
<i>Patrick M. O'Connor</i>	<i>Plymouth and Norfolk</i>	<i>1/29/2019</i>
<i>Paul R. Feeney</i>	<i>Bristol and Norfolk</i>	<i>1/31/2019</i>
<i>Timothy R. Whelan</i>	<i>1st Barnstable</i>	<i>1/3/2020</i>

SENATE No. 791

By Ms. DiZoglio, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 791) of Diana DiZoglio, Patrick M. O'Connor and Paul R. Feeney for legislation to establish a task force on the safety and welfare of elderly and disabled persons residing in public housing. Housing.

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION
SEE HOUSE, NO. 2238 OF 2017-2018.]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

An Act establishing a task force on elderly and disabled persons residing in public housing.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1 Chapter 23B of the General Laws is hereby amended by adding the following section:-

2 Section 31. There shall be within the department a joint task force on the safety and
3 welfare of elderly and disabled persons residing in public housing. The task force shall consist of
4 9 members 1 of whom shall be the undersecretary for housing and economic development or
5 their designee; 1 of whom shall be the undersecretary for elder affairs or their designee; 3 of
6 whom shall be members of the Massachusetts Psychological Association, who specialize in at-
7 risk mental illness patients; 4 of whom shall be directors of housing authorities representing
8 geographic and population diversity. The joint task force shall advise the secretary of housing
9 and economic development and the secretary of health and human services on best practices to
10 ensure the safety and welfare of elderly and disabled persons residing in public housing,

11 including investigating efforts to maximize overall facility and individual apartment safety and
12 security.

13 The joint task force shall report to the general court the results of its investigation and
14 study and any recommendations by filing the same with the clerks of the house of representatives
15 and the senate who shall forward the same to the chairs of the joint committee on elder affairs
16 and the joint committee on mental health, substance use and recovery on or before January 1,
17 2020.