

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 750**

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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>2/5/2021</i>
<i>Tami L. Gouveia</i>	<i>14th Middlesex</i>	<i>2/26/2021</i>
<i>Natalie M. Higgins</i>	<i>4th Worcester</i>	<i>2/26/2021</i>
<i>Mary S. Keefe</i>	<i>15th Worcester</i>	<i>2/26/2021</i>
<i>Patricia D. Jehlen</i>	<i>Second Middlesex</i>	<i>3/3/2021</i>
<i>Linda Dean Campbell</i>	<i>15th Essex</i>	<i>3/29/2021</i>
<i>Lindsay N. Sabadosa</i>	<i>1st Hampshire</i>	<i>3/29/2021</i>
<i>Thomas M. Stanley</i>	<i>9th Middlesex</i>	<i>4/6/2021</i>
<i>Marcos A. Devers</i>	<i>16th Essex</i>	<i>4/13/2021</i>
<i>Carol A. Doherty</i>	<i>3rd Bristol</i>	<i>4/13/2021</i>
<i>Erika Uyterhoeven</i>	<i>27th Middlesex</i>	<i>5/21/2021</i>

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 750**

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By Mr. O'Day of West Boylston, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 750) of James J. O'Day and others for legislation to provide emergency aid to certain elderly and disabled residents. Elder Affairs.

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The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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**In the One Hundred and Ninety-Second General Court  
(2021-2022)**  
\_\_\_\_\_

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 2018  
2 Official Edition, is hereby amended by adding the following paragraph:- Any person  
3 experiencing homelessness, (i) who has no established place of abode, or who lives in a  
4 temporary emergency shelter, and (ii) who 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 is hereby amended by inserting after  
9 section 10 the following three sections:- Section 11. Effective July first of every year the  
10 department shall increase the total budget of each eligible recipient, before taking into  
11 consideration any available income and resources, by a percentage amount equal to the  
12 percentage rise in the United States Consumer Price Index for January first of that year over the

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

17           Section 12. The combined countable assets of an assistance unit may not exceed \$2,500  
18 for assistance units consisting of one person and \$5,000 for assistance units consisting of two or  
19 more people. In determining countable assets, the department shall exclude the fair market value  
20 of one vehicle;

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