

# SENATE . . . . . No. 411

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## The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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PRESENTED BY:

***Patricia D. Jehlen***

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*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.

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PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	
<i>Patricia D. Jehlen</i>	<i>Second Middlesex</i>	
<i>Joanne M. Comerford</i>	<i>Hampshire, Franklin and Worcester</i>	<i>3/4/2021</i>
<i>Joan B. Lovely</i>	<i>Second Essex</i>	<i>3/31/2021</i>
<i>Thomas M. Stanley</i>	<i>9th Middlesex</i>	<i>4/6/2021</i>
<i>Erika Uyterhoeven</i>	<i>27th Middlesex</i>	<i>6/2/2021</i>

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By Ms. Jehlen, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 411) of Patricia D. Jehlen, Joanne M. Comerford, Joan B. Lovely and Thomas M. Stanley for legislation to provide emergency aid to certain elderly and disabled residents. Elder Affairs.

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[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION  
SEE SENATE, NO. 356 OF 2019-2020.]

## The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

\_\_\_\_\_  
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 2016  
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 new 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.