

**SENATE . . . . . No. 425**

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The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

***Michael O. Moore***

*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 promoting innovation in eldercare services.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	
<i>Michael O. Moore</i>	<i>Second Worcester</i>	
<i>Lindsay N. Sabadosa</i>	<i>1st Hampshire</i>	<i>2/23/2021</i>
<i>Mathew J. Muratore</i>	<i>1st Plymouth</i>	<i>3/8/2021</i>
<i>Angelo J. Puppolo, Jr.</i>	<i>12th Hampden</i>	<i>3/8/2021</i>
<i>Michael J. Soter</i>	<i>8th Worcester</i>	<i>3/8/2021</i>
<i>Bruce E. Tarr</i>	<i>First Essex and Middlesex</i>	<i>3/24/2021</i>
<i>Walter F. Timilty</i>	<i>Norfolk, Bristol and Plymouth</i>	<i>4/6/2021</i>

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By Mr. Moore, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 425) of Michael O. Moore, Lindsay N. Sabadosa, Mathew J. Muratore, Angelo J. Puppolo, Jr. and other members of the General Court for legislation to promote innovation in eldercare services. 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)**  
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An Act promoting innovation in eldercare services.

*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. Notwithstanding any special or general law to the contrary, the executive  
2 office of health and human services shall investigate and establish a zero interest loan trust fund  
3 for the purpose of establishing a program to convert entire or parts of licensed nursing facilities  
4 to single-occupancy rooms or community-based residences. The community-based residences  
5 shall provide alternative services for underserved elderly and disabled persons and shall include,  
6 but not be limited to, affordable independent housing, assisted living residences, group homes for  
7 the developmentally disabled, and outpatient medical and dental services programs. The office  
8 shall establish the criteria for nursing facilities to be eligible for conversions, the physical plant  
9 re-adaptation of nursing facilities, and the eligible enrollees in the conversion program as well as  
10 a funding program to support the operations of single-occupancy rooms in nursing facilities.  
11 Provided further an advisory committee shall oversee the development of the program. Said  
12 committee shall be composed of the following members, or their designee: the secretary health  
13 and human services, the secretary of elder affairs, the director of the office of Medicaid, the

14 commissioner of public health, the chairs of the joint committee on health care financing, the  
15 chairs of the house and senate committees on ways and means, a representative from the  
16 Massachusetts Senior Care Association, a representative from Leading Age and two consumer  
17 representatives.

18 SECTION 2. Notwithstanding any special or general law to the contrary, there shall be  
19 established and set up on the books of the commonwealth the Massachusetts Nursing Home  
20 Conversion Loan Fund, hereinafter referred to as the fund, the proceeds of which shall be used to  
21 provide zero-interest loans to convert entire or parts of licensed nursing facilities to community-  
22 based residences. There shall be credited to the fund any appropriations or other monies  
23 authorized by the general court and specifically designated to be credited to the fund; proceeds of  
24 any bonds or notes of the commonwealth issued for the purpose; any federal grants or loans; any  
25 private gifts, grants or donations made available; and any income derived from the investment of  
26 amounts credited to the fund. The secretary of the executive office of health and human services  
27 shall pursue and maximize all opportunities to qualify for federal financial participation.

28 SECTION 3. Notwithstanding any special or general law to the contrary, the executive  
29 office of health and human services shall establish a bed reconfiguration program which shall  
30 incentivize nursing facilities to reduce bed capacity. This program shall include, but not be  
31 limited to, financial incentive payments for the removal of beds, for the purpose of covering total  
32 facility costs that will now be allocated over a smaller bed capacity.

33 SECTION 4. Notwithstanding any special or general law to the contrary, the Department  
34 of Public Health shall establish a hardship waiver program to 105 CMR 150.017 and 105 CMR  
35 150.320 for facilities that meet certain criteria including, but not limited to, facilities that are

36 landlocked, facilities that are located in historical designation areas, and facilities who care for  
37 specialized resident populations.

38 SECTION 5. Chapter 118E of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after  
39 section 78 the following section:-

40 Section 79. In setting Medicaid capital rates for the Department of Public Health  
41 Determination of Need approved construction projects beginning October 1, 2020 in connection  
42 with, but not limited to, conversion of rooms with three or more residents to one- and two-  
43 bedded rooms, the executive office of health and human services shall set the rate at no less than  
44 the capital payment using the capital standard payment calculation methodology in effect on  
45 September 30, 2019 under 101 CMR 206.05.