

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 1544**

---

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

PRESENTED BY:

***Christopher Hendricks***

*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 to clarify the charitable purposes of certain organizations.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	DATE ADDED:
<i>Christopher Hendricks</i>	<i>11th Bristol</i>	<i>1/5/2023</i>
<i>Lindsay N. Sabadosa</i>	<i>1st Hampshire</i>	<i>1/26/2023</i>
<i>Brian W. Murray</i>	<i>10th Worcester</i>	<i>1/30/2023</i>
<i>Liz Miranda</i>	<i>Second Suffolk</i>	<i>3/6/2023</i>

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 1544**

---

---

By Representative Hendricks of New Bedford, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 1544) of Christopher Hendricks and others for legislation to clarify the charitable purposes of certain organizations. The Judiciary.

---

---

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION  
SEE HOUSE, NO. 1639 OF 2021-2022.]

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**In the One Hundred and Ninety-Third General Court  
(2023-2024)**  
\_\_\_\_\_

An Act to clarify the charitable purposes of certain organizations.

*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 85K of Chapter 231 of the General Laws is hereby amended by striking out the  
2 first sentence of the first paragraph and inserting in place thereof the following sentence:

3           It shall not constitute a defense to any cause of action based on tort brought against a  
4 corporation, trustees of a trust, or members of an association that said corporation, trust or  
5 association is or at the time the cause of action arose was a charity; provided, that if (a) the tort  
6 was committed in the course of any activity carried on to accomplish directly the charitable  
7 purposes of such corporation, trust or association, and such corporation, trust or association  
8 derives more than fifty percent of its income from charitable gifts or donations or (b) such  
9 charitable corporation, trust or association has been established primarily for religious purposes,

- 10 then liability in any such cause of action shall not exceed the sum of twenty thousand dollars,
- 11 exclusive of interest and costs.