

# **HOUSE . . . . . No. 4528**

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## The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, April 3, 2024.

The committee on Ways and Means, to whom was referred the Bill to rename the Massachusetts Rehabilitation Commission, MassAbility, to reflect the self-determination and limitless possibilities of people with disabilities (printed in House, No. 4161), reports recommending that the same ought to pass with an amendment substituting therefor the accompanying bill (House, No. 4528).

For the committee,

AARON MICHLEWITZ.

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 4528**

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**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

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

An Act to rename the Massachusetts Rehabilitation Commission, MassAbility, to reflect the self-determination and limitless possibilities of people with disabilities.

*Whereas*, The deferred operation of this act would tend to defeat its purpose, which is to promote equity and increase opportunities for persons with disabilities by renaming the commission and updating language used to more accurately reflect the values and core mission of the agency, therefore it is hereby declared to be an emergency law, necessary for the immediate preservation of the public convenience.

*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 17 of chapter 6 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2022  
2 Official Edition, is hereby amended by striking out, in line 13, the words “the Massachusetts  
3 rehabilitation commission” and inserting in place thereof the following word:- MassAbility.

4           SECTION 2. Section 74 of said chapter 6, as so appearing, is hereby amended by striking  
5 out, in line 1, the words “the rehabilitation of”.

6           SECTION 3. Said section 74 of said chapter 6, as so appearing, is hereby further  
7 amended by striking out, in lines 2, 6 and 9, the words “handicapped persons” and inserting in  
8 place thereof, in each instance, the following words:- persons with disabilities.

9 SECTION 4. Said section 74 of said chapter 6, as so appearing, is hereby further  
10 amended by striking out, in lines 2 to 3, the words “the Massachusetts rehabilitation  
11 commission” and inserting in place thereof the following word:- MassAbility.

12 SECTION 5. Section 75 of said chapter 6, as so appearing, is hereby amended by striking  
13 out, in line 2, the word “rehabilitation” and inserting in place thereof the following word:-  
14 MassAbility.

15 SECTION 6. Said section 75 of said chapter 6, as so appearing, is hereby further  
16 amended by striking out, in lines 10, 79, 81 and 88, the word “he” and inserting in place thereof,  
17 in each instance, the following word:- they.

18 SECTION 7. Said section 75 of said chapter 6, as so appearing, is hereby further  
19 amended by striking out, in lines 10, 11, 79, 80 and 82, the word “his” and inserting in place  
20 thereof, in each instance, the following word:- their.

21 SECTION 8. Said section 75 of said chapter 6, as so appearing, is hereby further  
22 amended by striking out, in line 85, the word “him” and inserting in place thereof the following  
23 word:- them.

24 SECTION 9. Section 76 of said chapter 6, as so appearing, is hereby amended by striking  
25 out, in line 7, the word “handicaps” and inserting in place thereof the following words:- a  
26 disability.

27 SECTION 10. Said section 76 of said chapter 6, as so appearing, is hereby further  
28 amended by striking out, in line 11, the word “his” and inserting in place thereof the following  
29 word:- their.

30 SECTION 11. Section 77 of said chapter 6, as so appearing, is hereby amended by  
31 striking out, in lines 5, 19, 34 and 58, the words “handicapped individual” and inserting in place  
32 thereof, in each instance, the following words:- person with a disability.

33 SECTION 12. Said section 77 of said chapter 6, as so appearing, is hereby further  
34 amended by striking out, in line 17, the words “handicapped individual’s family” and inserting in  
35 place thereof the following words:- family of the person with a disability.

36 SECTION 13. Said section 77 of said chapter 6, as so appearing, is hereby further  
37 amended by striking out, in lines 25, 29 to 30 and 38, the words “handicapped individuals” and  
38 inserting in place thereof, in each instance, the following words:- persons with disabilities.

39 SECTION 14. Said section 77 of said chapter 6, as so appearing, is hereby further  
40 amended by striking out, in lines 34, 53 and 59, the word “his” and inserting in place thereof, in  
41 each instance, the following word:- their.

42 SECTION 15. Said section 77 of said chapter 6, as so appearing, is hereby further  
43 amended by striking the definition of “Workshop”.

44 SECTION 16. Said section 77 of said chapter 6, as so appearing, is hereby further  
45 amended by striking out, in line 49, the words “Handicapped person” and inserting in place  
46 thereof the following words:- Person with a disability.

47 SECTION 17. Said section 77 of said chapter 6, as so appearing, is hereby further  
48 amended by striking out, in line 51, the word “handicap” and inserting in place thereof the  
49 following word:- barrier.

50 SECTION 18. Section 78 of said chapter 6, as so appearing, is hereby amended by  
51 striking out, in lines 3 to 4 and 23, the words “handicapped individual” and inserting in place  
52 thereof, in each instance, the following words:- person with a disability.

53 SECTION 19. Said section 78 of said chapter 6, as so appearing, is hereby further  
54 amended by striking out, in lines 5 and 24, the word “his” and inserting in place thereof, in each  
55 instance, the following word:- their.

56 SECTION 20. Said section 78 of said chapter 6, as so appearing, is hereby further  
57 amended by striking out, in lines 8 to 9, 15 and 16 to 17, the words “handicapped individuals”  
58 and inserting in place thereof, in each instance, the following words:- persons with disabilities.

59 SECTION 21. Section 78A of said chapter 6 is hereby repealed.

60 SECTION 22. Section 79 of said chapter 6, as appearing in the 2022 Official Edition, is  
61 hereby amended by striking out, in lines 20 and 27, the words “handicapped individuals” and  
62 inserting in place thereof, in each instance, the following words:- persons with disabilities.

63 SECTION 23. Said section 79 of said chapter 6, as so appearing, is hereby further  
64 amended by striking out, in lines 21 to 22, the words “and workshops”.

65 SECTION 24. Said section 79 of said chapter 6, as so appearing, is hereby further  
66 amended by striking out, in line 25, the words “handicapped persons” and inserting in place  
67 thereof the following words:- persons with disabilities.

68 SECTION 25. Said section 79 of said chapter 6, as so appearing, is hereby further  
69 amended by striking out, in line 28, the words “handicapped individual” and inserting in place  
70 thereof the following words:- person with a disability.

71 SECTION 26. Said section 79 of said chapter 6, as so appearing, is hereby further  
72 amended by striking out, in line 29, the word “his” and inserting in place thereof the following  
73 word:- their.

74 SECTION 27. Section 81 of said chapter 6, as so appearing, is hereby amended by  
75 striking out, in lines 8, 10, 14 and 17, the words “handicapped persons” and inserting in place  
76 thereof, in each instance, the following words:- persons with disabilities.

77 SECTION 28. Section 82 of said chapter 6, as so appearing, is hereby amended by  
78 striking out, in lines 5 to 6, the words “the Massachusetts rehabilitation commission” and  
79 inserting in place thereof the following word:- MassAbility.

80 SECTION 29. Section 84 of said chapter 6, as so appearing, is hereby amended by  
81 striking out, in lines 12 and 13, the word “his” and inserting in place thereof, in each instance,  
82 the following word:- their.

83 SECTION 30. Said section 84 of said chapter 6, as so appearing, is hereby further  
84 amended by striking out, in line 24, the words “handicapped person” and inserting in place  
85 thereof the following words:- person with a disability.

86 SECTION 31. Section 105 of said chapter 6, as so appearing, is hereby amended by  
87 striking out, in line 16, the words “the Massachusetts rehabilitation commission” and inserting in  
88 place thereof the following word:- MassAbility.

89 SECTION 32. Section 125 of said chapter 6, as so appearing, is hereby amended by  
90 striking out, in line 6, the word “rehabilitation” and inserting in place thereof the following  
91 word:- MassAbility.

92 SECTION 33. Said section 125 of said chapter 6, as so appearing, is hereby further  
93 amended by striking out, in line 36, the words “the rehabilitation commission” and inserting in  
94 place thereof the following word:- MassAbility.

95 SECTION 34. Section 126 of said chapter 6, as so appearing, is hereby amended by  
96 striking out, in line 4, the words “the rehabilitation commission” and inserting in place thereof  
97 the following word:- MassAbility.

98 SECTION 35. Section 128 of said chapter 6, as so appearing, is hereby amended by  
99 striking out, in lines 4 to 5, the words “the rehabilitation commission” and inserting in place  
100 thereof the following word:- MassAbility.

101 SECTION 36. Section 189 of said chapter 6, as so appearing, is hereby amended by  
102 striking out, in line 2, the word “rehabilitation” and inserting in place thereof the following  
103 word:- MassAbility.

104 SECTION 37. Section 217 of said chapter 6, as so appearing, is hereby amended by  
105 striking out, in lines 14 to 15, the words “the Massachusetts rehabilitation commission” and  
106 inserting in place thereof the following word:- MassAbility.

107 SECTION 38. Section 16 of chapter 6A of the General Laws, as so appearing, is hereby  
108 amended by striking out, in line 32, the words “the Massachusetts rehabilitation commission”  
109 and inserting in place thereof the following word:- MassAbility.

110 SECTION 39. Section 16F of said chapter 6A, as so appearing, is hereby amended by  
111 striking out, in line 9, the words “the Massachusetts rehabilitation commission” and inserting in  
112 place thereof the following word:- MassAbility.

113 SECTION 40. Section 16O of said chapter 6A, as so appearing, is hereby amended by  
114 striking out, in lines 32 to 33, the words “the Massachusetts rehabilitation commission” and  
115 inserting in place thereof the following word:- MassAbility.

116 SECTION 41. Section 59 of chapter 10 of the General Laws, as so appearing, is hereby  
117 amended by striking out, in lines 15 and 19, the word “rehabilitation” and inserting in place  
118 thereof, in each instance, the following word:- MassAbility.

119 SECTION 42. Section 19 of chapter 15A of the General Laws, as so appearing, is hereby  
120 amended by striking out, in lines 40 to 41, the words “the Massachusetts rehabilitation  
121 commission” and inserting in place thereof the following word:- MassAbility.

122 SECTION 43. Section 30A of said chapter 15A, as so appearing, is hereby amended by  
123 striking out, in lines 26, 70 to 71, 102 to 103 and 160 to 161, the words “the Massachusetts  
124 rehabilitation commission” and inserting in place thereof, in each instance, the following word:-  
125 MassAbility.

126 SECTION 44. Said section 30A of said chapter 15A, as so appearing, is hereby further  
127 amended by striking out, in line 113, the words “Massachusetts rehabilitation commission” and  
128 inserting in place thereof the following word:- MassAbility.

129 SECTION 45. Section 2A of chapter 18 of the General Laws, as so appearing, is hereby  
130 amended by striking out, in lines 14 to 15, 28 to 29 and 44 to 45, the words “the Massachusetts  
131 rehabilitation commission” and inserting in place thereof, in each instance, the following word:-  
132 MassAbility.



133 SECTION 46. Section 9 of chapter 18A of the General Laws, as so appearing, is hereby  
134 amended by striking out, in line 7, the word “rehabilitation” and inserting in place thereof the  
135 following word:- MassAbility.

136 SECTION 47. Section 4 of chapter 19C of the General Laws, as so appearing, is hereby  
137 amended by striking out, in lines 29 to 30, the words “the Massachusetts rehabilitation  
138 commission” and inserting in place thereof the following word:- MassAbility.

139 SECTION 48. Section 13A of chapter 22 of the General Laws, as so appearing, is hereby  
140 amended by striking out, in line 12, the words “the physically handicapped” and inserting in  
141 place thereof the following words:- persons with a physical disability.

142 SECTION 49. Said section 13A of said chapter 22, as so appearing, is hereby further  
143 amended by striking out, in lines 41, 53, 102 to 103, 109 to 110, 116 to 117, 126, 177, 179 and  
144 187, the words “physically handicapped persons” and inserting in place thereof, in each instance,  
145 the following words:- persons with a physical disability.

146 SECTION 50. Said section 13A of said chapter 22, as so appearing, is hereby further  
147 amended by striking out, in lines 47, 48, 50 and 80 to 81, the words “handicapped persons” and  
148 inserting in place thereof, in each instance, the following words:- persons with a disability.

149 SECTION 51. Said section 13A of chapter 22, as so appearing, is hereby further amended  
150 by striking out, in lines 120 to 121, the words “the Massachusetts rehabilitation commission” and  
151 inserting in place thereof the following word:- MassAbility.

152 SECTION 52. Said section 13A of said chapter 22, as so appearing, is hereby further  
153 amended by striking out, in line 200, the words “Physically handicapped person” and inserting in  
154 place thereof the following words:- Person with a physical disability.

155 SECTION 53. Said section 13A of said chapter 22, as so appearing, is hereby further  
156 amended by striking out, in line 204, the words “Physically handicapped persons” and inserting  
157 in place thereof the following words:- Persons with a physical disability.

158 SECTION 54. Section 6 of chapter 23H of the General Laws, as so appearing, is hereby  
159 amended by striking out, in lines 6 to 7, the words “the Massachusetts rehabilitation  
160 commission” and inserting in place thereof the following word:- MassAbility.

161 SECTION 55. Said section 6 of said chapter 23H, as so appearing, is hereby further  
162 amended by striking out, in line 7, the words “handicapped persons” and inserting in place  
163 thereof the following words:- persons with disabilities.

164 SECTION 56. Section 7 of said chapter 23H, as so appearing, is hereby amended by  
165 striking out, in lines 8 to 9, the words “the Massachusetts rehabilitation commission” and  
166 inserting in place thereof the following word:- MassAbility.

167 SECTION 57. Section 2RRRRR of chapter 29 of the General Laws, as so appearing, is  
168 hereby amended by striking out, in lines 3 to 4, the words “the Massachusetts Rehabilitation  
169 Commission” and inserting in place thereof, in each instance, the following word:- MassAbility.

170 SECTION 58. Said section 2RRRRR of said chapter 29, as so appearing, is hereby  
171 further amended by striking out, in lines 5 and 8 to 9, the words “the Massachusetts rehabilitation  
172 commission” and inserting in place thereof, in each instance, the following word:- MassAbility.

173 SECTION 59. Section 1 of chapter 31 of the General Laws, as so appearing, is hereby  
174 amended by striking out, in lines 106 to 107, the words “the Massachusetts rehabilitation  
175 commission” and inserting in place thereof the following word:- MassAbility.

176 SECTION 60. Section 47 of said chapter 31, as so appearing, is hereby amended by  
177 striking out, in lines 9 to 10, 16, 21 to 22 and 26 to 27, the words “the Massachusetts  
178 rehabilitation commission” and inserting in place thereof, in each instance, the following word:-  
179 MassAbility.

180 SECTION 61. Said section 47 of said chapter 31, as so appearing, is hereby further  
181 amended by striking out, in line 33, the words “mentally retarded person” and inserting in place  
182 thereof the following words:- person with an intellectual disability.

183 SECTION 62. Section 5B of chapter 32 of the General Laws, as so appearing, is hereby  
184 amended by striking out, in lines 68 to 69, the words “the Massachusetts rehabilitation  
185 commission” and inserting in place thereof the following word:- MassAbility.

186 SECTION 63. Section 3 of chapter 40A of the General Laws, as so appearing, is hereby  
187 amended by striking out, in line 121, the words “physically handicapped person” and inserting in  
188 place thereof the following words:- person with a physical disability.

189 SECTION 64. Section 6 of chapter 62 of the General Laws, as so appearing, is hereby  
190 amended by striking out, in lines 1341 to 1342 and 1351 to 1352, the words “the Massachusetts  
191 rehabilitation commission” and inserting in place thereof the following word:- MassAbility.

192 SECTION 65. Section 38JJ of chapter 63 of the General Laws, as so appearing, is hereby  
193 amended by striking out, in lines 13 and 22 to 23, the words “the Massachusetts rehabilitation  
194 commission” and inserting in place thereof, in each instance, the following word:- MassAbility.

195 SECTION 66. Section 12A of chapter 71B of the General Laws, as so appearing, is  
196 hereby amended by striking out, in lines 17 to 18, the words “sheltered employment,”.

197 SECTION 67. Section 12B of said chapter 71B, as so appearing, is hereby amended by  
198 striking out, in line 15, the words “the Massachusetts rehabilitation commission” and inserting in  
199 place thereof the following word:- MassAbility.

200 SECTION 68. Section 12C of said chapter 71B, as so appearing, is hereby amended by  
201 striking out, in lines 36 and 42, the words “the Massachusetts rehabilitation commission” and  
202 inserting in place thereof, in each instance, the following word:- MassAbility.

203 SECTION 69. Section 17 of said chapter 71B, as so appearing, is hereby amended by  
204 striking out, in lines 48, 85 and 97, the words “the Massachusetts rehabilitation commission” and  
205 inserting in place thereof, in each instance, the following word:- MassAbility.

206 SECTION 70. Section 2A of chapter 111 of the General Laws, as so appearing, is hereby  
207 amended by striking out, in lines 2 to 3, the words “the Massachusetts rehabilitation  
208 commission” and inserting in place thereof the following word:- MassAbility.

209 SECTION 71. Said section 2A of said chapter 111, as so appearing, is hereby further  
210 amended by striking out, in lines 4 to 5, the words “handicapped person” and inserting in place  
211 thereof the following words:- person with a disability.

212 SECTION 72. Section 4G of said chapter 111, as so appearing, is hereby amended by  
213 striking out, in lines 10 to 11, the words “the Massachusetts rehabilitation commission” and  
214 inserting in place thereof the following word:- MassAbility.

215 SECTION 73. Section 4 of chapter 111B of the General Laws, as so appearing, is hereby  
216 amended by striking out, in lines 20 to 21, the words “the Massachusetts rehabilitation  
217 commission” and inserting in place thereof the following word:- MassAbility.

218 SECTION 74. Section 38B of chapter 121B of the General Laws, as so appearing, is  
219 hereby amended by striking out, in line 10, the words “the Massachusetts rehabilitation  
220 commission” and inserting in place thereof the following word:- MassAbility.

221 SECTION 75. Section 3W of chapter 143 of the General Laws, as so appearing, is hereby  
222 amended by striking out, in lines 6 to 7, the words “the physically handicapped” and inserting in  
223 place thereof the following words:- persons with a physical disability.

224 SECTION 76. Section 4 of chapter 151B of the General Laws, as so appearing, is hereby  
225 amended by striking out, in lines 460 to 461, the words “the Massachusetts rehabilitation  
226 commission” and inserting in place thereof the following word:- MassAbility.

227 SECTION 77. Section 15E of chapter 166 of the General Laws, as so appearing, is  
228 hereby amended by striking out, in lines 111 to 112 and 195 to 196, the words “the  
229 Massachusetts rehabilitation commission” and inserting in place thereof, in each instance, the  
230 following word:- MassAbility.

231 SECTION 78. Section 85V of chapter 231 of the General Laws, as so appearing, is  
232 hereby amended by striking out, in lines 23 to 24, the words “the physically handicapped or

233 mentally retarded” and inserting in place thereof the following words:- persons with a physical,  
234 intellectual or developmental disability.

235 SECTION 79. Section 3 of chapter 234A of the General Laws, as so appearing, is hereby  
236 amended by striking out, in lines 10 to 11, the words “Physically handicapped persons” and  
237 inserting in place thereof the following words:- Persons with a physical disability.

238 SECTION 80. The first paragraph of section 1 of chapter 58 of the acts of 2012 is hereby  
239 amended by striking out the words “the Massachusetts rehabilitation commission” and inserting  
240 in place thereof the following word:- MassAbility.

241 SECTION 81. Section 28 of chapter 62 of the acts of 2014 is hereby amended by striking  
242 out the words “the Massachusetts rehabilitation commission” each time they appear and inserting  
243 in place thereof, in each instance, the following word:- MassAbility.