HOUSE DOCKET, NO. 568 FILED ON: 1/13/2023

HOUSE . . . . . No. 612

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Brian M. Ashe

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 social card games at municipal senior centers.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	DATE ADDED:
Brian M. Ashe	*2nd Hampden*	*1/13/2023*
Lindsay N. Sabadosa	*1st Hampshire*	*1/20/2023*
Adam J. Scanlon	*14th Bristol*	*1/23/2023*
Brian W. Murray	*10th Worcester*	*1/25/2023*
Kelly W. Pease	*4th Hampden*	*1/26/2023*
James Arciero	*2nd Middlesex*	*2/1/2023*
Carol A. Doherty	*3rd Bristol*	*2/6/2023*
Patrick M. O'Connor	*First Plymouth and Norfolk*	*2/13/2023*
Paul McMurtry	*11th Norfolk*	*2/16/2023*

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HOUSE . . . . . No. 612

By Representative Ashe of Longmeadow, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 612) of Brian M. Ashe and others relative to social card games at municipal senior centers. Elder Affairs.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

An Act relative to social card games at municipal senior centers.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

SECTION 1

Chapter 271 of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after section 22B the following section:-

Section 22C. (a) For purposes of this section, the term "social card game" shall mean a card game, including but not limited to, poker, pinochle, bridge, pitch, rummy, canasta or hearts, in which:

(i) the winnings of any player in a single game or session does not exceed $50;

(ii) the amount of money contributed by a single player during the entire session is $5 or less;

(iii) all money wagered on the game is distributed to the players by the end of the session;

(iv) all players are natural persons who attend and compete in the game, in person, as a contestant or bettor on equal terms with the other players therein without receiving or becoming entitled to receive something of value or any profit therefrom other than his or her personal winnings from the game; and

(iv) no person receives or becomes entitled to receive any profit, outside the winnings of a player, for the arrangement or facilitation of the game or permitting the use of premises for the game.

(v) the provisions of Section 22C of chapter 271 shall only apply to municipal senior centers in the commonwealth.

(b) Nothing in this chapter shall authorize the prosecution, arrest or conviction of any person for hosting or playing in a social card game in a public or private setting; provided, however, private establishments may refuse to permit the playing of a social card game.