

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 647**

---

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

PRESENTED BY:

*Alan Silvia*

*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 protecting elders from bullying.

PETITION OF:

| NAME:              | DISTRICT/ADDRESS:  | DATE ADDED:      |
|--------------------|--------------------|------------------|
| <i>Alan Silvia</i> | <i>7th Bristol</i> | <i>1/18/2023</i> |

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 647**

---

By Representative Silvia of Fall River, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 647) of Alan Silvia relative to protecting elders from bullying. Elder Affairs.

---

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION  
SEE HOUSE, NO. 757 OF 2021-2022.]

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

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

An Act protecting elders from bullying.

*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 14 of chapter 19A of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2016  
2 Official Edition, is hereby amended by inserting after the definition of “Abuse” the following  
3 definition:-

4           “Bullying”, an act of intimidation or harassment that causes a reasonable person to fear  
5 for his or her physical safety or property and may consist of physical actions, cyberbullying, oral,  
6 written, or electronic communication, or retaliation for reporting such acts.

7           SECTION 2. Subsection (a) of section 15 of said chapter 19A, as so appearing, is hereby  
8 amended by inserting after the word “aging”, in line 6, the following words:- , housing authority  
9 employee.

10 SECTION 3. Said subsection (a) of said section 15 of said chapter 19A, as so appearing,  
11 is hereby further amended by inserting after the word “abuse”, in line 10, the following words:-  
12 or bullying.

13 SECTION 4. Subsection (b) of said section 15 of said chapter 19A, as so appearing, is  
14 hereby amended by inserting after the word “abused”, in line 20, the following words:- or  
15 bullied.

16 SECTION 5. Subsection (c) of said section 15 of said chapter 19A, as so appearing, is  
17 hereby amended by inserting after the word “abuse”, in line 30, the following words:- or  
18 bullying.

19 SECTION 6. Subsection (d) of said section 15 of said chapter 19A, as so appearing, is  
20 hereby amended by inserting after the word “abuse”, in lines 34, 38 and 41, in each instance, the  
21 following words:- or bullying.

22 SECTION 7. Subsection (e) of said section 15 of said chapter 19A, as so appearing, is  
23 hereby amended by inserting after the word “abuse”, in lines 50 and 56, in each instance, the  
24 following words:- or bullying.

25 SECTION 8. Said section 15 of said chapter 19A, as so appearing, is hereby amended by  
26 adding the following subsection:-

27 (g) If the department or its designated agency receives a report of abuse or bullying  
28 pursuant to this section and the elderly person who is the subject of the report is a recipient of  
29 state or federal rental housing assistance, including but not limited to a tenant of a housing  
30 authority as defined in section 1 of chapter 121B or a tenant of publically-assisted housing as

31 defined in section 1 of chapter 40T, the department or designated agency shall submit a copy of  
32 such report to the department of housing and community development. The department of  
33 housing and community development shall maintain a central database of all reports and the  
34 tenant and housing unit or units involved in each report. The department of housing and  
35 community development shall send quarterly reports, as follows, to each:

36 (i) housing authority, of the reports submitted pursuant to this section involving a tenant  
37 who resides in a unit that the housing authority owns or administers or administers the rental  
38 housing assistance for;

39 (ii) administering agency under contract to the department of housing and community  
40 development to administer a rental voucher program, of the reports submitted pursuant to this  
41 section involving a tenant who resides in a unit that the agency administers the rental housing  
42 assistance for; and

43 (iii) manager of publically-assisted housing as defined in section 1 of chapter 40T, of the  
44 reports submitted pursuant to this section involving a tenant who resides in a unit under their  
45 management.

46 SECTION 9. Subsection (a) of section 16 of said chapter 19A, as so appearing, is hereby  
47 amended by inserting after the word “abused”, in line 3, the following words:- or bullied.

48 SECTION 10. Subsection (b) of said section 16 of said chapter 19A, as so appearing, is  
49 hereby amended by inserting after the word “abuse”, in lines 13 and 14, in each instance, the  
50 following words:- or bullying.

51 SECTION 11. Subsection (c) of said section 16 of said chapter 19A, as so appearing, is  
52 hereby amended by inserting after the word “abuse”, in line 41, the following words:- or  
53 bullying.

54 SECTION 12. Clause (1) of section 17 of said chapter 19A, as so appearing, is hereby  
55 amended by inserting after the word “abuse” the following words:- or bullying.

56 SECTION 13. Subsection (a) of section 18 of said chapter 19A, as so appearing, is  
57 hereby amended by inserting after the word “abuse”, in lines 13, 24 and 26, in each instance, the  
58 following words:- or bullying.

59 SECTION 14. Subsection (b) of said section 18 of said chapter 19A, as so appearing, is  
60 hereby amended by inserting after the word “abused”, in line 40, the following words:- or  
61 bullied.

62 SECTION 15. Subsection (a) of section 20 of said chapter 19A, as so appearing, is  
63 hereby amended by inserting after the word “abuse”, in line 3, the following words:- or bullying.

64 SECTION 16. Said subsection (a) of said section 20 of said chapter 19A, as so appearing,  
65 is hereby further amended by inserting after the word “abused”, in line 21, the following words:-  
66 or bullied.

67 SECTION 17. Subsection (b) of said section 20 of said chapter 19A, as so appearing, is  
68 hereby amended by inserting after the word “abuse”, in line 39, the following words:- or  
69 bullying.

70           SECTION 18. Said subsection (b) of said section 20 of said chapter 19A, as so appearing,  
71 is hereby further amended by inserting after the word “abused”, in line 52, the following words:-  
72 or bullied.

73           SECTION 19. Section 23 of said chapter 19A, as so appearing, is hereby amended by  
74 inserting after the word “abuse”, in line 72, the following words:- or bullying.

75           SECTION 20. Section 24 of said chapter 19A, as so appearing, is hereby amended by  
76 inserting after the word “abuse”, in line 11, the following words:- and bullying.