

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 654**

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**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

PRESENTED BY:

*Thomas P. Walsh*

*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 nursing homes.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	DATE ADDED:
<i>Thomas P. Walsh</i>	<i>12th Essex</i>	<i>1/18/2023</i>

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 654**

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By Representative Walsh of Peabody, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 654) of Thomas P. Walsh relative to floor plans for certain nursing homes. Elder Affairs.

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[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION  
SEE HOUSE, NO. 758 OF 2021-2022.]

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

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

An Act relative to nursing homes.

*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. Chapter 111 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2020 Official Edition,  
2 is hereby amended by inserting after section 72D the following section:-

3 Section 72D ½. (a) The bedroom of each resident, as that term is defined in section 72F,  
4 shall have a floor area of not less than 125 square feet for single occupancy rooms and not less  
5 than 90 per bed for multiple occupancy rooms.

6 (b) The bedroom of each resident, as that term is defined in said section 72F, shall be  
7 shaped and sized so each bed may be placed at least 4 feet from any lateral wall and at least 4  
8 feet from any window or radiator. Beds shall be spaced at least 3 feet from any other bed and an  
9 unobstructed passageway of at least 6 feet shall be maintained at the foot of each bed. Variations

10 in bed placement and dimensions shall be permitted only with the approval of the department;  
11 provided, however, that the unobstructed passageway shall never be less than 4 feet.

12 (c) As used in this section, the word “floor area” shall not include any closet, vestibule or  
13 toilet room areas.

14 SECTION 2. Section 72D ½ of chapter 111 of the General Laws, inserted by section 1,  
15 shall not apply to bedrooms of a facility licensed under section 71 of said chapter 111 on the  
16 effective date of this act.

17 SECTION 3. Section 2 is hereby repealed.

18 SECTION 4. Section 3 shall take effect on January 1, 2025.