

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 198**

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**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

PRESENTED BY:

***James C. Arena-DeRosa***

*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 ensuring the safety of residents of facilities under the authority of the department of developmental services.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	DATE ADDED:
<i>James C. Arena-DeRosa</i>	<i>8th Middlesex</i>	<i>1/15/2025</i>

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 198**

By Representative Arena-DeRosa of Holliston, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 198) of James C. Arena-DeRosa for legislation to authorize video cameras to be installed at entrances, exits, and common areas of certain private facilities under the authority of the Department of Developmental Services. Children, Families and Persons with Disabilities.

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

**In the One Hundred and Ninety-Fourth General Court  
(2025-2026)**

An Act relative to ensuring the safety of residents of facilities under the authority of the department of developmental services.

*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 19B of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2018 Official  
2 Edition, is hereby amended by adding at the end thereof, the following new section:-

3 Section 21. (a) For the purposes of this section, the following words shall have the  
4 following meaning:

5 "Common areas", an area of a facility that all residents share, including but not limited to  
6 dining areas, recreational areas, meeting areas, and hallways."

7 (b) Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, video cameras shall be  
8 installed at all entrances, exits, and common areas of private facilities under the authority of the  
9 department of developmental services, including community-based residential homes, and group

10 homes, for the purposes of continuously monitoring the entrances, exits, and common areas of  
11 these facilities.

12 (c) The department of developmental services shall promulgate rules and regulations  
13 detailing under what circumstances video cameras may be used in accordance with this section.  
14 The commissioner of the department of developmental services, in consultation with the  
15 executive office of public safety and security, shall establish a system for maintaining the  
16 recorded images produced by continuous video monitoring.