

HOUSE No. 4558

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, October 2, 2025.

The committee on Aging and Independence, to whom was referred the petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 775) of John J. Lawn, Jr., for legislation to establish a commission on aging disabled adults, reports recommending that the accompanying bill (House, No. 4558) ought to pass.

For the committee,

THOMAS M. STANLEY.

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

An Act establishing a commission on aging disabled adults.

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 3 of the General Laws , as appearing in the 2022 Official Edition,
2 is hereby amended by inserting after section 75 the following section:-

3 Section 76. (a) There shall be a special commission established pursuant to section 2A of
4 chapter 4 of the General Laws to study the aging disabled adult population in the
5 commonwealth. The commission shall consist of: 1 member of the house of representatives
6 appointed by the speaker of the house, who shall serve as co-chair; 1 member of the senate
7 appointed by the senate president, who shall serve as co-chair; the secretary of the executive
8 office of aging and independence or a designee; the secretary of housing and livable
9 communities or a designee; the commissioner of public health or a designee; a representative of
10 the LGBTQIA+ Aging Project or a designee; a representative of the National Association on
11 HIV Over Fifty, Inc.; a representative of Massachusetts Aging Access, Inc. or a designee; a
12 representative of AARP Massachusetts or a designee; a representative of the Massachusetts
13 Association of Councils on Aging, Inc. or a designee; a representative of the Massachusetts
14 Senior Care Association, Inc. or a designee; a representative of the Home Care Aides Council or

15 a designee, a representative of the Home Care Alliance of Massachusetts, Inc. or a designee; and
16 5 members to be appointed by the governor, 1 of whom shall be a member of the Massachusetts
17 bar who practices elder law, 1 of whom shall be an expert in adult disability public policy or
18 research and 3 aging disabled adults. The governor's appointees shall ensure that the
19 commission has at least 1 representative from each of the following areas: Cape Cod, western
20 Massachusetts and central Massachusetts.

21 (b) The commission shall investigate, analyze and study the health, housing, financial,
22 social, psychosocial and long-term care needs of aging disabled adults and their caregivers and
23 shall make recommendations to improve access to benefits and services where appropriate and
24 necessary. In furtherance of its duties, the commission shall: (i) examine the impact of the
25 commonwealth's policies and regulations on aging disabled adults and make recommendations to
26 ensure equality of access, treatment, care and benefits; (ii) examine strategies to increase
27 provider awareness of the needs of aging disabled adults and their caregivers and improve the
28 competence of and access to treatment, services and ongoing care, including preventive care; (iii)
29 assess the funding and programming needed to enhance services to the growing population of
30 aging disabled adults; (iv) examine best practices for increasing access, reducing isolation,
31 preventing abuse and exploitation, promoting independence and self-determination,
32 strengthening caregiving, eliminating disparities and improving quality of life; (v) examine
33 whether certain policies and practices, or the absence of certain policies and practice, promote
34 the premature admission of aging disabled adults to institutional care; (vi) recommend, as
35 appropriate and necessary, lower cost and culturally appropriate home and community-based
36 alternatives to institutional care; (vii) examine the feasibility of developing statewide training
37 curricula to improve provider competency in the delivery of health, housing and long-term

38 support services to aging disabled adults and their caregivers; and (viii) examine outreach
39 protocols to reduce apprehension among aging disabled adults and their caregivers of utilizing
40 mainstream providers.

41 (c) The commission, in formulating its recommendations, shall consider the best policies
42 and practices in other states and jurisdictions. The commission may hold regular public
43 meetings, fact-finding hearings and other public forums as it considers necessary.

44 (d) The commission may accept and solicit funds, including any gifts, donations, grants
45 or bequests or any federal funds to further the purposes of this section. These funds shall be
46 deposited in a separate account with the state treasurer, shall be received by the treasurer on
47 behalf of the commonwealth and shall be expended by the commission in accordance with law.

48 (e) The commission shall submit a report on its activities and findings, including any
49 recommendations, to the governor, the clerks of the house of representatives and the senate and
50 the house and senate chairs of the joint committee on aging and independence and shall file at
51 least 1 report by December 31 in the even-numbered years.