

HOUSE No. 793

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Jeffrey Rosario Turco

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 the rights of older adults and people with disabilities.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	DATE ADDED:
<i>Jeffrey Rosario Turco</i>	<i>19th Suffolk</i>	<i>1/17/2025</i>
<i>John J. Marsi</i>	<i>6th Worcester</i>	<i>4/3/2025</i>
<i>James B. Eldridge</i>	<i>Middlesex and Worcester</i>	<i>7/18/2025</i>

HOUSE No. 793

By Representative Turco of Winthrop, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 793) of Jeffrey Rosario Turco relative to the rights of older adults and people with disabilities. Elder Affairs.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

An Act protecting the rights of older adults and people with disabilities.

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 72 of chapter 111 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2020
2 Official Edition is hereby amended by inserting, at the end thereof, the following:-

3 Notwithstanding any other general or special law, the department shall promulgate
4 regulations to promote the dignity of residents, both permanent and temporary, of nursing homes
5 licensed by said department that are equivalent to the protection of rights of residents of facilities
6 licensed by the department of mental health and the department of developmental disabilities that
7 shall be effective not later than July 1, 2027.

8 SECTION 2. Chapter 70E of chapter 111 of the general laws, as appearing in the 2020
9 Official Edition, is hereby amended by inserting after the sentence which reads:

10 “Any person whose rights under this section are violated may bring, in addition to any
11 other action allowed by law or regulation, a civil action under sections sixty B to sixty E,
12 inclusive, of chapter two hundred and thirty-one,” the following additional paragraphs:

13 Every nursing home shall establish a Human Rights Committee which shall have the
14 authority to receive and investigate, or investigate on its own motion, any complaints affecting
15 the rights of residents. The department shall promulgate regulations regarding the composition,
16 terms, and duties of said committee, and shall provide annual training for human rights
17 committee members in its six regions.

18 The Commissioner shall designate not less than two employees per region who shall be
19 trained in enforcement and resolution of violations of the human rights of nursing home residents
20 and staff. Said Human Rights Officers shall work with nursing home human rights committees
21 to provide assistance and support in processing resident complaints.

22 SECTION 3. Chapter 70E of chapter 111 of the general laws, as appearing in the 2020
23 Official Edition, is hereby amended by inserting at the end thereof, “Rights of Residents shall
24 include the enumerated rights of nursing home residents, as appearing in the Omnibus Budget
25 Reform Act of 1987, guaranteed to residents receiving Medicare or Medicaid, and which shall
26 apply for all residents whether the resident receives Medicare or MassHealth benefits.