

SENATE No. 138

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Patricia D. Jehlen

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 assisting elders and people with disabilities in the Commonwealth.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	
<i>Patricia D. Jehlen</i>	<i>Second Middlesex</i>	
<i>James B. Eldridge</i>	<i>Middlesex and Worcester</i>	<i>3/3/2025</i>
<i>Patrick M. O'Connor</i>	<i>First Plymouth and Norfolk</i>	<i>3/20/2025</i>
<i>Sal N. DiDomenico</i>	<i>Middlesex and Suffolk</i>	<i>4/11/2025</i>
<i>John F. Keenan</i>	<i>Norfolk and Plymouth</i>	<i>6/2/2025</i>

SENATE No. 138

By Ms. Jehlen, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 138) of Patricia D. Jehlen and James B. Eldridge for legislation to provide emergency aid to certain elderly and disabled residents. Children, Families and Persons with Disabilities.

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION
SEE SENATE, NO. 371 OF 2023-2024.]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

An Act relative to assisting elders and people with disabilities in the Commonwealth.

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 1 of chapter 117A of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2022
2 Official Edition, is hereby amended by adding the following paragraph:-

3 Any person experiencing homelessness, (i) who has no established place of abode, or
4 who lives in a temporary emergency shelter, and (ii) who is otherwise eligible under the
5 provisions of this chapter, shall receive the same payment rate as recipients who incur shelter
6 costs including, but not limited to rent or a mortgage. The department shall promulgate or revise
7 any such rules and regulations necessary to implement the provisions of this section.

8 SECTION 2. Chapter 117A of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after
9 section 10 the following new sections:-

10 Section 11. Effective July first of every year, the department shall increase the total
11 budget of each eligible recipient, before taking into consideration any available income and
12 resources, by a percentage amount equal to the percentage rise in the United States Consumer
13 Price Index for January first of that year over the level of said index for January first of the
14 previous year plus such additional percentage amount as is recommended annually by the
15 department and appropriated by the general court. The department shall promulgate such rules
16 and regulations to implement the provisions of this section.

17 Section 12. The department shall set the maximum benefit for the program in this chapter
18 at the same level as the program in chapter 118 of the General Laws. The department shall
19 promulgate such rules and regulations necessary to implement the provisions of this section.