

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 1222**

---

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

PRESENTED BY:

**Kevin G. Honan**

---

*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 passage of the accompanying bill:

An Act relative to community housing and services.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:
Kevin G. Honan	17th Suffolk
Kay Khan	11th Middlesex
Matthew C. Patrick	3rd Barnstable
Cleon H. Turner	1st Barnstable

# The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand and Nine

## AN ACT RELATIVE TO COMMUNITY HOUSING AND 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. The Executive Office of Health and Human Services, Executive Office of Housing  
2 and Economic Development, the Executive Office of Elder Affairs, the Executive Office of Veterans  
3 Services, the Department of Housing and Community Development, the Department of Transitional  
4 Assistance, the Department of Developmental Services, the Department of Mental Health, the Department  
5 of Children and Families, the Department of Public Health, the Massachusetts Rehabilitation  
6 Commission, Massachusetts Commission for the Blind, Massachusetts Commission for the Deaf and  
7 Hard of Hearing, the Massachusetts Housing Finance Agency, the Massachusetts Housing Partnership  
8 and the Community Economic Development Assistance Corporation shall develop and execute a  
9 memorandum of understanding which shall include an action plan to coordinate the procurement and  
10 availability of community based supportive services, capital subsidies, and operating subsidies for new  
11 and existing housing available to low and extremely low income residents to be known as the community  
12 housing and services memorandum of understanding. The memorandum of understanding shall identify  
13 and resolve barriers and reduce fragmentation for the provision of community based supportive services  
14 and affordable housing.

15           The community housing and services memorandum of understanding shall be filed with the Governor,  
16 Lieutenant Governor, the Joint Committee on Housing, the Joint Committee on Elder Affairs, the Joint  
17 Committee on Children, Families and Persons with Disabilities, the Senate Committee on Ways and  
18 Means and the House Committee on Ways and Means no later than March 15, 2010.  
19           Said memorandum shall facilitate the creation of a demonstration program that creates no less than one  
20 thousand units of permanent supported housing that includes coordinated operating, capital subsidies and  
21 voluntary community based supportive services within three years of enactment of this act, provided that

22 the aforementioned agencies shall assess the need for permanent supportive housing to serve the  
23 Commonwealth's homeless or at-risk of homelessness, people with disabilities, and elders and shall  
24 establish a long range target to produce new supportive housing opportunities to meet the  
25 Commonwealth's need.

26 Community based supportive services shall include, but need not be limited to: resident service  
27 coordinators, housing support teams and other models to link low and extremely low income tenants with  
28 any services necessary to maintain their tenancy, or direct community-based social services or other  
29 services necessary to maintain a successful tenancy, provided that a tenant's receipt of services shall not  
30 be an eligibility requirement or a requirement of maintaining a tenancy under the plan.

31 The plan shall establish benchmarks to assess financial savings to the Commonwealth resulting from the  
32 avoidance of institutionalization, shelter, or nursing care due to the availability of community based  
33 housing support services.

34 SECTION 2. For a grant program to be known as the community housing supportive services action  
35 grant, to be administered by the Interagency Council on Housing and Homelessness to support new and  
36 existing low and extremely low income housing that is developed or provided with service coordination  
37 in accordance with the community housing and services memorandum of understanding; provided that  
38 applicants seeking to use said funds in conjunction with a new housing development receiving funds  
39 authorized under chapter 119 of the acts of 2008, the Massachusetts Rental Voucher Program or section 8  
40 of the United States Housing Act of 1937, as amended, shall do so by submitting a simultaneous  
41 application for said funds; provided that housing that requires a tenant to receive social services to  
42 maintain the housing shall not be eligible; provided further that no greater than four per cent of the funds  
43 may be used to administer said  
44 program.....\$2,040,000