

HOUSE No. 1447

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Andres X. Vargas

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 establishing a task force on rate parity and equity in homeless shelters.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	DATE ADDED:
<i>Andres X. Vargas</i>	<i>3rd Essex</i>	<i>2/18/2021</i>
<i>Christina A. Minicucci</i>	<i>14th Essex</i>	<i>2/26/2021</i>
<i>Michelle L. Ciccolo</i>	<i>15th Middlesex</i>	<i>2/26/2021</i>
<i>Lindsay N. Sabadosa</i>	<i>1st Hampshire</i>	<i>2/26/2021</i>
<i>Vanna Howard</i>	<i>17th Middlesex</i>	<i>2/26/2021</i>
<i>Elizabeth A. Malia</i>	<i>11th Suffolk</i>	<i>3/15/2021</i>

HOUSE No. 1447

By Mr. Vargas of Haverhill, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 1447) of Andres X. Vargas and others for an investigation by a task force (including members of the General Court) relative to rate parity and equity for contracted emergency homeless shelters. Housing.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

**In the One Hundred and Ninety-Second General Court
(2021-2022)**

An Act establishing a task force on rate parity and equity in homeless shelters.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1 There shall be a task force to examine and make recommendations on rate parity and
2 equity for contracted emergency homeless shelters. The task force shall consist of 9 members:
3 the senate and house chairs of the joint committee on housing or designees, who shall serve as
4 co-chairs; 2 members of the house of representatives, 1 of whom shall be appointed by the
5 minority leader; 2 members of the senate, 1 of whom shall be appointed by the minority leader; 4
6 members of the Massachusetts housing and shelter alliance, appointed by the alliance’s executive
7 director, 2 of whom shall be representatives of a member agency operating in a gateway city, 1
8 of whom shall be a representative of a member agency operating in the city of boston, 1 of whom
9 shall be a representative of a member agency; and the undersecretary of housing and community
10 development or designee, who may ask for assistance as needed from the department and the
11 commonwealth’s quasi-public housing agencies. The chairs may, at their discretion, name
12 additional members representing stakeholder organizations and/or consult informally with such
13 stakeholders.

14 The task force’s scope shall include, but not be limited to, the study of existing disparities
15 in rates paid by the commonwealth to contracted emergency homeless shelters, and
16 recommendations to implement and sustain rate parity for contracted emergency homeless
17 shelters across the commonwealth. The task force shall file a report containing its findings and
18 recommendations, including draft legislation necessary to carry out its recommendations, with
19 the clerks of the house of representatives and senate, the senate and house chairs of the joint
20 committee on housing and the chairs of the house and senate committees on ways and means not
21 later than 180 days after enactment.