

HOUSE No. 2071

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Denise C. Garlick

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 promoting the betterment of resident’s health and safety in skilled nursing and rehabilitation facilities.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:
<i>Denise C. Garlick</i>	<i>13th Norfolk</i>
<i>Steven Ultrino</i>	<i>33rd Middlesex</i>
<i>James B. Eldridge</i>	<i>Middlesex and Worcester</i>
<i>Michael F. Rush</i>	<i>Norfolk and Suffolk</i>

HOUSE No. 2071

By Ms. Garlick of Needham, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 2071) of Denise C. Garlick and others relative to promoting the betterment of resident’s health and safety in skilled nursing and rehabilitation facilities. Elder Affairs.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

**In the One Hundred and Ninetieth General Court
(2017-2018)**

An Act relative to promoting the betterment of resident’s health and safety in skilled nursing and rehabilitation facilities.

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 111 of the Massachusetts General Laws as appearing in the 2014
2 edition is hereby amended by inserting the following new sections after Section 72BB:

3 “The Department through its division of health care facility licensure and certification
4 shall provide annual training for long term care facilities on the licensure and certification
5 process. This training shall include, but not be limited to, the department’s interpretation of the
6 general laws, rules, regulations, procedures, and policies concerning the licensure and
7 certification process for such long term care facilities. The training shall be interactive, with the
8 sharing of information and recommendations between long term care facilities and the
9 department on most frequently cited deficiencies, both state and federal, and best practices to
10 ensure resident quality care.

11 The department shall notify long term care facilities of proposed policy changes and seek
12 comment from long term care facilities before instituting a policy change concerning the
13 licensure and certification process.

14 The Department in conjunction with long term care facilities shall establish clear and
15 consistent protocols for collecting and gathering information in order to better evaluate trends in
16 long term care facility operations. The Department shall exchange this information with long
17 term care providers on a biannual basis.

18 For the purpose of this section, the term “long term care facilities” shall mean nursing
19 homes, rest homes or other long-term care facilities.”