

HOUSE No. 3210

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Carl M. Sciortino, Jr.

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 veterans' benefits equity.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:
<i>Carl M. Sciortino, Jr.</i>	<i>34th Middlesex</i>
<i>Denise Andrews</i>	<i>2nd Franklin</i>
<i>Cory Atkins</i>	<i>14th Middlesex</i>
<i>Ruth B. Balsler</i>	<i>12th Middlesex</i>
<i>Marjorie C. Decker</i>	<i>25th Middlesex</i>
<i>Jonathan Hecht</i>	<i>29th Middlesex</i>
<i>Jason M. Lewis</i>	<i>31st Middlesex</i>
<i>James J. O'Day</i>	<i>14th Worcester</i>
<i>Denise Provost</i>	<i>27th Middlesex</i>
<i>Timothy J. Toomey, Jr.</i>	<i>26th Middlesex</i>
<i>Martha M. Walz</i>	<i>8th Suffolk</i>

HOUSE No. 3210

By Mr. Sciortino of Medford, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 3210) of Carl M. Sciortino, Jr. and others relative to veterans' benefits equity for persons discharged from the military based on certain consensual conduct. Veterans and Federal Affairs.

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION
SEE

□ HOUSE
□ , NO. 970 OF 2011-2012.]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand Thirteen

An Act relative to veterans' benefits equity.

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 7 of Chapter 4 of the Massachusetts General Laws, as appearing in
2 the 2010 Official Edition, is hereby amended by inserting at the end of Clause 43 the following-

3 “(4) Nothing in this clause shall be construed to deny benefits to anyone discharged
4 solely under Article 125 of the Uniform Code of Military Justice when such discharge was the
5 result of consensual behavior between legal adult persons; or anyone discharged solely under
6 Chapter 37 of Title 10 of the US Code, Section 654. Nor shall anything in this clause be
7 construed to deny benefits to a same-sex spouse or beneficiary of a veteran.

8 The Department of Veterans’ Services shall promulgate regulations as necessary to
9 ensure veterans discharged under the above mentioned codes, and/or same-sex spouses of
10 veterans, may appeal their eligibility status for Chapter 115 benefits that they would otherwise be
11 entitled to under Massachusetts General Laws and regulations.

12 Any veteran and/or same-sex spouse of a veteran, whose discharge is determined to be
13 the result of consensual behavior between legal adult persons, or anyone discharged solely under

14 Chapter 37 of Title 10 of the US Code, Section 654, shall be eligible for and receive benefits
15 under this section.”