

HOUSE No. 3408

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

David M. Nangle

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:

An Act making appropriations to fund a reintegration center for veterans and active military personnel.

PETITION OF:

NAME:

David M. Nangle

Thomas J. Calter

DISTRICT/ADDRESS:

17th Middlesex

12th Plymouth

HOUSE No. 3408

By Mr. Nangle of Lowell, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 3408) of David M. Nangle and Thomas J. Calter relative to creating a reintegration center for veterans and active military personnel. Veterans and Federal Affairs.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

An Act making appropriations to fund a reintegration center for veterans and active military personnel.

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. To provide for the establishment of a reintegration center for veterans and
2 active military personnel reintegration center for veterans and active military personnel, the sum
3 set forth in section 2, for the several purposes and subject to the conditions specified in this act,
4 are hereby made available, subject to the laws regulating the disbursement of public funds.

5 SECTION 2.

6 EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

7 4000-XXXX..For the executive office of health and human services for the purchase of a
8 site, the preparation of plans and the construction of a new 25 bed reintegration center for
9 veterans and active military personnel in the city of Lowell, conditioned on matching
10 commitments of not less than \$15,000,000 from other public or private sources; provided, that
11 the executive office may accept gifts, grants, donations, and bequests from other public or
12 private
13 sources.....\$15,000,000.

14 4000-XXXX.. For the operation of the Reintegration Center for Veterans and Active
15 Military Personnel in
16 Lowell.....\$8,000,000.

17 SECTION 3. Chapter 6 of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after section
18 71 the following sections:-

19 Section 71A. There shall be a board of trustees of the Reintegration Center for Veterans
20 and Active Military Personnel in Lowell, consisting of 7 persons, at least 4 of whom shall be

21 veterans, who shall be appointed by the secretary of health and human services, with the
22 approval of the governor, for initial terms of 3 years. Upon the expiration of the term of office of
23 a member, the member's successor shall be appointed by the secretary to serve for 7 years. The
24 secretary shall designate 1 of the members as chairperson. The board shall serve without
25 compensation, but each member shall be reimbursed by the commonwealth for all expenses
26 incurred in the performance of the member's official duties.

27 Section 71B. (a)The board of trustees of the Reintegration Center for Veterans and Active
28 Military Personnel in Lowell, hereinafter called the center, shall have the management and
29 control of the center and all property, real and personal, of the commonwealth and occupied or
30 used by the center. In the management and control of the center aforementioned, the board of
31 trustees shall: (i) provide comprehensive services to veterans, as defined in clause forty-third of
32 section 7 of chapter 4 as well as active military personnel, meaning those engaged in active
33 service in the armed forces as defined in said clause forty-third, who are in the process of
34 returning and reintegrating to life in the commonwealth; (ii) provide specific services for
35 veterans and active military personnel with mental health problems which may include, but are
36 not limited to, post traumatic stress disorder, traumatic brain injuries, depression and substance
37 abuse; (iii) provide comprehensive services to the families of any veterans and active military
38 personnel receiving services; and (iv) work with the United States Veterans' Administration and
39 other federal, state, local or regional public agencies, authorities, or non-profit organizations to
40 provide any services under this section.

41 The board of trustees shall appoint a superintendent to act as the administrative head of
42 the center. The superintendent shall, subject to the approval of the trustees, appoint and may
43 remove a medical director, treasurer, assistant treasurer and those other persons the
44 superintendent deems necessary for the proper and efficient operation of the facilities of the
45 home. The medical director shall have responsibility for any medical and outpatient facilities
46 and shall make recommendations to the superintendent on the appointments of all physicians,
47 nurses and other medical staff.

48 In addition to the forgoing, the board of trustees shall have the same powers and perform
49 the same duties as the trustees of state hospitals under chapter 19, so far as applicable. The
50 secretary of health and human services shall adopt and promulgate rules and regulations
51 consistent with this section.

52 SECTION 4. Section 16 of chapter 6A of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2010
53 Official Edition, is hereby amended by striking out, in lines 32 and 33, the words "and the
54 Soldiers' Home in Massachusetts and the Soldiers' Home in Holyoke" and inserting in place
55 thereof the following:-

56 , the Soldiers' Home in Massachusetts, the Soldiers' Home in Holyoke, and the
57 Reintegration Center for Veterans and Active Military Personnel in Lowell.

58 SECTION 5. Section 7 of chapter 10 of the General Laws, as so appearing, is hereby
59 amended by striking out, in lines 2 and 3 the words “and of the Soldiers’ Home in Holyoke” and
60 inserting in place thereof the following:-

61 , the Soldiers’ Home in Holyoke and the Reintegration Center for Veterans and Active
62 Military Personnel in Lowell.

63 SECTION 6. Section 62 of chapter 22C of the General Laws, as so appearing, is hereby
64 amended by striking out, in lines 2 and 3 the words “ or the Soldiers’ Home in Massachusetts
65 located in the city of Chelsea” and inserting in place thereof the following:-

66 the Soldiers’ Home in Massachusetts located in the city of Chelsea or the Reintegration
67 Center for Veterans and Active Military Personnel in Lowell.

68 SECTION 7. Section 24A of chapter 30 of the General Laws, as so appearing, is hereby
69 amended by inserting after the word “Holyoke”, in line 21, the following:-

70 , Reintegration Center for Veterans and Active Military Personnel in Lowell.

71 SECTION 8. Section 91 of chapter 32 of the General Laws, as most recently amended by
72 section 11 of chapter 36 of the acts of 2012, is hereby further amended by striking out, in
73 subsection (a), the words “or the Soldiers’ Home in Holyoke” and inserting in place thereof the
74 following:-

75 , the Soldiers’ Home in Holyoke, or the Reintegration Center for Veterans and Active
76 Military Personnel in Lowell.

77 SECTION 9. Section 13 of chapter 58 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2010
78 Official Edition, is hereby amended by inserting after the word “Holyoke”, in line 6, the
79 following:-

80 , the Reintegration Center for Veterans and Active Military Personnel in Lowell.

81 SECTION 10. Section 70E of chapter 111 of the General Laws, as so appearing, is
82 hereby amended by inserting after the word “Massachusetts”, in line 112, the following:-

83 , the Reintegration Center for Veterans and Active Military Personnel in Lowell.

84 SECTION 11. Section 1 of chapter 113 of the General Laws, as so appearing, is hereby
85 amended by striking out, in lines 5 and 6, the words “and the Soldiers’ Home in Holyoke” and
86 inserting in place thereof the following:-

87 , the Soldiers’ Home in Holyoke and the Reintegration Center for Veterans and Active
88 Military Personnel in Lowell.

89 SECTION 12. To meet the expenditures necessary in carrying out section 2, the state
90 treasurer shall, upon request of the governor, issue and sell bonds of the commonwealth in an
91 amount to be specified by the governor from time to time but not exceeding, in the aggregate,
92 \$15,000,000. All bonds issued by the commonwealth shall be designated on their face, Veteran
93 Respite Center Establishment Loan Act of 2013, and shall be issued for a maximum term of
94 years, not exceeding 30 years, as the governor may recommend to the general court under
95 Section 3 of Article LXII of the Amendments to the Constitution. All bonds shall be payable not
96 later than June 30, 2048. All interest and payments on account of principal on these obligations
97 shall be payable from the Commonwealth Transportation Fund. Notwithstanding any other
98 provisions of this act, bonds and interest thereon issued under this section shall be general
99 obligations of the commonwealth.

100 SECTION 13. Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, in carrying out
101 section 2, and all other provisions of this act, the executive office of health and human services,
102 hereinafter the office, may enter into contracts, agreements or transactions that may be
103 appropriate with other federal, state, local or regional public agencies or authorities. The
104 contracts, agreements, or transactions may relate to such matters as the office shall determine
105 including, without limitation, the research, design, layout, construction, reconstruction or
106 management of construction of all or a portion of the Reintegration Center for Veterans and
107 Active Military Personnel in Lowell. In relation to any such contracts, agreements or
108 transactions, the office may advance monies to these agencies or authorities, without prior
109 expenditure by the agencies or authorities, and the agencies and authorities may accept monies
110 necessary to carry out these agreements; provided, however, that the office shall certify to the
111 comptroller the amounts so advanced; provided, further, that these agreements shall contain
112 provisions satisfactory to the office for the accounting of monies expended by any other agency
113 or authority; and provided, further, that all monies not expended under any such agreement shall
114 be credited to the account of the office from which they were advanced. The office shall report to
115 the house and senate committees on ways and means on any transfers completed under this
116 section.

117 SECTION 14. Notwithstanding any other general or special law to the contrary, the
118 executive office of health and human services shall take all necessary actions to secure federal
119 assistance which is or may become available to the office. If a federal law, administrative
120 regulation or practice requires an action relating to federal assistance to be taken by a
121 department, agency or other instrumentality of the commonwealth other than the executive office
122 of health and human services, the other department, agency or instrumentality shall take such
123 action.