

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 341**

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

PRESENTED BY:

*Daniel Cullinane*

*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 strengthening the Massachusetts home care program.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:
<i>Daniel Cullinane</i>	<i>12th Suffolk</i>
<i>William Driscoll</i>	<i>7th Norfolk</i>
<i>Kenneth I. Gordon</i>	<i>21st Middlesex</i>
<i>Daniel Cahill</i>	<i>10th Essex</i>
<i>Daniel M. Donahue</i>	<i>16th Worcester</i>
<i>Brendan P. Crighton</i>	<i>11th Essex</i>
<i>Joseph W. McGonagle, Jr.</i>	<i>28th Middlesex</i>
<i>Jason M. Lewis</i>	<i>Fifth Middlesex</i>
<i>Tackey Chan</i>	<i>2nd Norfolk</i>
<i>Jack Lewis</i>	<i>7th Middlesex</i>
<i>John J. Lawn, Jr.</i>	<i>10th Middlesex</i>
<i>David Paul Linsky</i>	<i>5th Middlesex</i>
<i>Marjorie C. Decker</i>	<i>25th Middlesex</i>
<i>Daniel J. Ryan</i>	<i>2nd Suffolk</i>
<i>Jose F. Tosado</i>	<i>9th Hampden</i>
<i>Denise Provost</i>	<i>27th Middlesex</i>
<i>David M. Rogers</i>	<i>24th Middlesex</i>
<i>Jonathan Hecht</i>	<i>29th Middlesex</i>

<i>Steven Ultrino</i>	<i>33rd Middlesex</i>
<i>Thomas J. Calter</i>	<i>12th Plymouth</i>
<i>Louis L. Kafka</i>	<i>8th Norfolk</i>
<i>Jennifer E. Benson</i>	<i>37th Middlesex</i>
<i>Antonio F. D. Cabral</i>	<i>13th Bristol</i>
<i>Gerard Cassidy</i>	<i>9th Plymouth</i>
<i>Michelle M. DuBois</i>	<i>10th Plymouth</i>
<i>Angelo M. Scaccia</i>	<i>14th Suffolk</i>
<i>Paul R. Heroux</i>	<i>2nd Bristol</i>
<i>Mike Connolly</i>	<i>26th Middlesex</i>
<i>James B. Eldridge</i>	<i>Middlesex and Worcester</i>
<i>Elizabeth A. Malia</i>	<i>11th Suffolk</i>
<i>Ruth B. Balsler</i>	<i>12th Middlesex</i>
<i>Carmine L. Gentile</i>	<i>13th Middlesex</i>
<i>Evandro C. Carvalho</i>	<i>5th Suffolk</i>
<i>Tricia Farley-Bouvier</i>	<i>3rd Berkshire</i>
<i>Bud Williams</i>	<i>11th Hampden</i>
<i>James J. O'Day</i>	<i>14th Worcester</i>
<i>John J. Mahoney</i>	<i>13th Worcester</i>
<i>Joan B. Lovely</i>	<i>Second Essex</i>
<i>Nick Collins</i>	<i>4th Suffolk</i>
<i>Paul Brodeur</i>	<i>32nd Middlesex</i>
<i>Frank A. Moran</i>	<i>17th Essex</i>
<i>Mary S. Keefe</i>	<i>15th Worcester</i>
<i>Brian Murray</i>	<i>10th Worcester</i>
<i>James M. Murphy</i>	<i>4th Norfolk</i>
<i>Bruce J. Ayers</i>	<i>1st Norfolk</i>
<i>Michael S. Day</i>	<i>31st Middlesex</i>
<i>Linda Dean Campbell</i>	<i>15th Essex</i>
<i>Jay D. Livingstone</i>	<i>8th Suffolk</i>
<i>Daniel J. Hunt</i>	<i>13th Suffolk</i>
<i>Chynah Tyler</i>	<i>7th Suffolk</i>
<i>Aaron Vega</i>	<i>5th Hampden</i>
<i>Paul W. Mark</i>	<i>2nd Berkshire</i>
<i>William Smitty Pignatelli</i>	<i>4th Berkshire</i>
<i>Christine P. Barber</i>	<i>34th Middlesex</i>
<i>Natalie Higgins</i>	<i>4th Worcester</i>
<i>Harold P. Naughton, Jr.</i>	<i>12th Worcester</i>
<i>Peter V. Kocot</i>	<i>1st Hampshire</i>

<i>Rady Mom</i>	<i>18th Middlesex</i>
<i>Sean Garballey</i>	<i>23rd Middlesex</i>
<i>Claire D. Cronin</i>	<i>11th Plymouth</i>
<i>Denise C. Garlick</i>	<i>13th Norfolk</i>
<i>Angelo J. Puppolo, Jr.</i>	<i>12th Hampden</i>
<i>John W. Scibak</i>	<i>2nd Hampshire</i>
<i>Carlos Gonzalez</i>	<i>10th Hampden</i>
<i>Linda Dorcena Forry</i>	<i>First Suffolk</i>
<i>Brian M. Ashe</i>	<i>2nd Hampden</i>
<i>Dylan Fernandes</i>	<i>Barnstable, Dukes and Nantucket</i>
<i>Adrian Madaro</i>	<i>1st Suffolk</i>
<i>Russell E. Holmes</i>	<i>6th Suffolk</i>

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 341**

By Mr. Cullinane of Boston, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 341) of Daniel Cullinane and others for legislation to strengthen the Massachusetts home care program. Elder Affairs.

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

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

An Act strengthening the Massachusetts home care program.

*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 Elder Affairs, under authority granted in Section 4  
2 of MGL Chapter 19A, shall amend the Massachusetts Home Care regulations (651 CMR 3.00).  
3 Such amendment shall require that home care aide agencies contracting with Aging Service  
4 Access Points to provide homemaker and personal care services through the Massachusetts  
5 Home Care program submit comprehensive annual cost reports. Such annual cost reports shall  
6 be created by the Executive Office of Elder Affairs and that include a full accounting of annual  
7 costs for supplies, labor, administrative, and other categories as deemed appropriate; and

8 SECTION 2. The Office of the Attorney General, under authority granted under in  
9 Section 11N of Chapter 12 of the General Laws to monitor trends in the health care market, may  
10 investigate any home care aide agency contracting with Aging Service Access Points to provide  
11 homemaker and personal care services through the Massachusetts Home Care program. Further,  
12 the attorney general may require that any such agency produce documents, answer

13 interrogatories and provide testimony under oath. Nothing in this section shall limit the authority  
14 of the attorney general to regulate home care providers or protect home care consumers under  
15 any other law.

16 SECTION 3. Chapter 111 of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after  
17 Section 57D, the following new section:

18 Section 57E

19 (A) The department shall, after a public hearing, promulgate rules and regulations for the  
20 licensing and conduct of home care aid agencies. A home care aide agency means any business,  
21 non-profit or other entity seeking to contract to provide homemaker, personal care homemaker,  
22 or home health services in the Commonwealth, whether or not such entity is currently providing  
23 such services. Each such home care aid agency shall be required to obtain a service license  
24 under a new process to be newly established by the Massachusetts Department of Public Health,  
25 in consultation with the Executive Office of Elder Affairs.

26 (B) Such license process shall require that, in a license and authority to provide such  
27 services, an application must be filed with the Department of Public Health in which the  
28 applicant shall specify the types of home care or home health services to be offered by the  
29 provider as well as the following:

30 1) expected service area, including municipality and county names; and

31 2) an ongoing quality assurance program that includes compliance with all applicable  
32 federal and state quality of care standards; and

33 3) written assurance that it will fully comply with all cost reporting and minimum  
34 average employee compensation standards established by state law; and

35 4) other requirements as determined by the department.

36 (C) An appropriate fee structure as necessary to administer this licensure program shall  
37 be determined by the department.

38 SECTION 4. Subsection 72J of chapter 111 of the General Laws is hereby amended by  
39 inserting the following new subsection (b):

40 (b) As used in this subsection, the following terms shall have the following meanings:

41 "Home Care Worker" means any person employed by a home care aide agency to  
42 provide home health, homemaker, personal care, companion and chore services.

43 "Home Care Aide Agency" means an entity providing designated and approved  
44 home care program services under contract with an Aging Services Access Point as defined in  
45 M.G.L. c. 19A 4B.

46 "Home Care Worker Registry" means the registry established under this  
47 subsection.

48 The department, subject to appropriation and in consultation with the Executive Office of  
49 Elder Affairs, shall establish a new home care worker registry of all individuals currently  
50 employed by a home care aide agency. A home care aide agency shall only hire or employ on a  
51 paid, unpaid, temporary or permanent basis, a home care worker who is listed in said registry as  
52 having completed all required certifications and trainings.

53           The registry shall also contain specific documented findings, in accordance with this  
54 subsection, by any Executive Office of Health and Human Services department of patient or  
55 resident abuse, mistreatment, neglect or misappropriation of patient or resident property  
56 involving an individual listed on the registry. All home care aide agencies shall contact the  
57 registry prior to hiring an employee to ascertain if there is a finding of patient or resident abuse,  
58 mistreatment, neglect or misappropriation of patient or resident property. In the case of inquiries  
59 to the registry, any information disclosed concerning a finding of patient or resident abuse,  
60 mistreatment, neglect or misappropriation of patient or resident property shall also include a  
61 disclosure of any statement in the registry relating to the finding or a clear and accurate summary  
62 of any such statement. No home care aide agency shall hire an individual whose name appears  
63 in the registry with an adjudicated finding of patient or resident abuse, mistreatment, neglect or  
64 misappropriation of patient or resident property if that individual is under a suspension imposed  
65 by the department under the terms of this section.

66           The department shall make a finding as to the accuracy of allegations of patient or  
67 resident abuse, mistreatment, neglect or misappropriation of patient or resident property after  
68 providing notice to the home care worker of the allegation and a reasonable opportunity for a  
69 hearing for the individual to rebut such allegations. If the department finds that a home care  
70 worker abused, mistreated or neglected a patient or resident or misappropriated patient or  
71 resident property, the department shall notify the home care worker and the home care aide  
72 agency of that finding. The department shall not make a finding that an individual has neglected  
73 a patient or resident if the individual demonstrates that such neglect was caused by factors  
74 beyond the control of the individual. Upon making a finding of patient or resident abuse,  
75 mistreatment, neglect or misappropriation of patient or resident property, the department may

76 suspend the right of such individual to work as a home care worker. The department shall  
77 include the terms of any such suspension in the registry and no home care aide agency shall hire  
78 that individual until the suspension has been served to its completion.

79         If the individual is charged with and convicted of a crime arising out of a report of abuse,  
80 the department shall permanently suspend the individual's ability to work as a home care worker;  
81 provided, however, that if an individual's finding of guilt is overturned on appeal, the individual  
82 may appeal to the department to overturn the suspension. If a case is continued without a  
83 finding, the department may permanently suspend an individual's ability to work as a home care  
84 worker and shall make such a finding on the record to that effect after notice to that individual  
85 and an opportunity to appeal; provided, however, that a case continued without a finding shall  
86 appear in the registry as part of the registrant's record for not less than the length of probation or  
87 sanction imposed on the individual by the court.

88         A home care worker who is subject to a temporary or permanent suspension shall not  
89 offer services, whether publicly or privately funded, as a caregiver or in another direct service  
90 capacity to persons with a physical, intellectual or developmental disability, a mental illness or to  
91 children or elderly persons. An individual in violation of this paragraph shall be subject to a fine  
92 of not more than \$5,000."

93         The home care worker registry shall include, but not be limited to, the following  
94 information concerning each home care worker: (1) Full legal name; (2) Current home address;  
95 (3) Gender; (4) Date of birth; (5) Employers full legal name; (6) Job Title and (7) An updated list  
96 of home care trainings and/or certifications completed by the home care worker.



97                   The department shall require the registry information for each employed home  
98 care worker to be submitted and regularly updated by each home care aide agency subject to the  
99 provisions of this subsection. A home care aide agency shall collect and maintain the required  
100 information for each employed home care worker and shall promptly submit updated information  
101 whenever such information changes. No charges shall be imposed on any person or entity for  
102 any costs related to the registry.

103                   Persons employed as a home care worker by a home care aide agency on the  
104 effective date of this section shall be registered as soon as practicable, but not later than six  
105 months after the effective date of this statute. The registry shall be updated at least quarterly.

106                   The registry shall be sufficiently and promptly accessible to meet the needs of the  
107 public. Upon request, information in the home care worker registry shall be made available to the  
108 public, including but not limited to home care workers and home care aide agencies. The  
109 department shall include security mechanisms in the registry to implement and maintain a record  
110 of accessing or obtaining information from the registry.

111                   The department shall make any such additional rules and regulations as are reasonably  
112 necessary to implement the provisions of this subsection.