

**SENATE . . . . . No. 371**

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**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

PRESENTED BY:

***Patricia D. Jehlen***

*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 assisting elders and people with disabilities in the Commonwealth.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	
<i>Patricia D. Jehlen</i>	<i>Second Middlesex</i>	
<i>Susannah M. Whipps</i>	<i>2nd Franklin</i>	<i>2/2/2023</i>
<i>Brian W. Murray</i>	<i>10th Worcester</i>	<i>2/3/2023</i>
<i>Sal N. DiDomenico</i>	<i>Middlesex and Suffolk</i>	<i>2/8/2023</i>
<i>Rebecca L. Rausch</i>	<i>Norfolk, Worcester and Middlesex</i>	<i>3/2/2023</i>
<i>James B. Eldridge</i>	<i>Middlesex and Worcester</i>	<i>3/6/2023</i>

**SENATE . . . . . No. 371**

By Ms. Jehlen, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 371) of Patricia D. Jehlen, Susannah M. Whipps, Brian W. Murray, Sal N. DiDomenico and other members of the General Court for legislation to provide emergency aid to certain elderly and disabled residents. Elder Affairs.

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION  
SEE SENATE, NO. 411 OF 2021-2022.]

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

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**In the One Hundred and Ninety-Third General Court  
(2023-2024)**  
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An Act relative to assisting elders and people with disabilities in the Commonwealth.

*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 1 of chapter 117A of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2020  
2 Official Edition, is hereby amended by adding the following paragraph:-

3 Any person experiencing homelessness, (i) who has no established place of abode, or  
4 who lives in a temporary emergency shelter, and (ii) who is otherwise eligible under the  
5 provisions of this chapter, shall receive the same payment rate as recipients who incur shelter  
6 costs including, but not limited to rent or a mortgage. The department shall promulgate or revise  
7 any such rules and regulations necessary to implement the provisions of this section.

8 SECTION 2. Chapter 117A of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after  
9 section 10 the following new sections:-

10           Section 11. Effective July first of every year, the department shall increase the total  
11 budget of each eligible recipient, before taking into consideration any available income and  
12 resources, by a percentage amount equal to the percentage rise in the United States Consumer  
13 Price Index for January first of that year over the level of said index for January first of the  
14 previous year plus such additional percentage amount as is recommended annually by the  
15 department and appropriated by the general court. The department shall promulgate such rules  
16 and regulations to implement the provisions of this section.

17           Section 12. The department shall set the maximum benefit for the program in this chapter  
18 at the same level as the program in chapter 118 of the General Laws. The department shall  
19 promulgate such rules and regulations necessary to implement the provisions of this section.