

SENATE No. 00607

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 passage of the accompanying bill:

An act relative to community housing and services.

PETITION OF:

| NAME: | DISTRICT/ADDRESS: |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| <i>Patricia D. Jehlen</i> | <i>Second Middlesex</i> |
| <i>Donald F. Humason, Jr.</i> | <i>4th Hampden</i> |
| <i>Michael R. Knapik</i> | <i>Second Hampden and Hampshire</i> |
| <i>James T. Welch</i> | <i>Hampden</i> |

SENATE No. 00607

By Ms. Jehlen, petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 607) of Welch, Knapik, Humason and other members of the General Court for legislation relative to community housing and services [Joint Committee on Housing].

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand Eleven

An act relative to community housing and services.

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 Health and Human Services, Executive Office of
2 Housing and Economic Development, the Executive Office of Elder Affairs, the Executive
3 Office of Veterans Services, the Department of Housing and Community Development, the
4 Department of Transitional Assistance, the Department of Developmental Services, the
5 Department of Mental Health, the Department of Children and Families, the Department of
6 Public Health, the Massachusetts Rehabilitation Commission, Massachusetts Commission for the
7 Blind, Massachusetts Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, the Massachusetts Housing
8 Finance Agency, the Massachusetts Housing Partnership and the Community Economic
9 Development Assistance Corporation shall develop and execute a memorandum of
10 understanding which shall include an action plan to coordinate the procurement and availability
11 of community based supportive services, capital subsidies, and operating subsidies for new and
12 existing housing available to low and extremely low income residents to be known as the

13 community housing and services memorandum of understanding. The memorandum of
14 understanding shall identify and resolve barriers and reduce fragmentation for the provision of
15 community based supportive services and affordable housing.

16 The community housing and services memorandum of understanding shall be filed with
17 the Governor, Lieutenant Governor, the Joint Committee on Housing, the Joint Committee on
18 Elder Affairs, the Joint Committee on Children, Families and Persons with Disabilities, the
19 Senate Committee on Ways and Means and the House Committee on Ways and Means no later
20 than March 15, 2012.

21 Said memorandum shall facilitate the creation of a demonstration program that creates
22 no less than one thousand units of permanent supported housing that includes coordinated
23 operating, capital subsidies and voluntary community based supportive services within three
24 years of enactment of this act, provided that the aforementioned agencies shall assess the need
25 for permanent supportive housing to serve the Commonwealth's homeless or at-risk of
26 homelessness, people with disabilities, and elders and shall establish a long range target to
27 produce new supportive housing opportunities to meet the Commonwealth's need.

28 Community based supportive services shall include, but need not be limited to: resident
29 service coordinators, housing support teams and other models to link low and extremely low
30 income tenants with any services necessary to maintain their tenancy, or direct community-based
31 social services or other services necessary to maintain a successful tenancy, provided that receipt
32 of services by a tenant with any disability shall not be an eligibility requirement or a requirement
33 of maintaining a tenancy under the plan.

34 The plan shall establish benchmarks to assess financial savings to the Commonwealth
35 resulting from the avoidance of institutionalization, shelter, or nursing care due to the availability
36 of community based housing support services.

37 SECTION 2. There shall be, subject to appropriation, a grant program to be known as
38 the community housing supportive services action grant, to be administered by the Interagency
39 Council on Housing and Homelessness to support new and existing low and extremely low
40 income housing that is developed or provided with service coordination in accordance with the
41 community housing and services memorandum of understanding; provided that applicants
42 seeking to use said funds in conjunction with a new housing development receiving funds
43 authorized under chapter 119 of the acts of 2008, the Massachusetts Rental Voucher Program or
44 section 8 of the United States Housing Act of 1937, as amended, shall do so by submitting a
45 simultaneous application for said funds; provided that housing that requires a tenant with a
46 disability to receive services to maintain the housing shall not be eligible; provided further that
47 no greater than four per cent of the funds may be used to administer said program.