

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 121**

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The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

*Kay Khan*

*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 the authority of the Disabled Persons Protection Commission.

PETITION OF:

| NAME:                    | DISTRICT/ADDRESS:                    |
|--------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| <i>Kay Khan</i>          | <i>11th Middlesex</i>                |
| <i>Marcos A. Devers</i>  | <i>16th Essex</i>                    |
| <i>Paul R. Heroux</i>    | <i>2nd Bristol</i>                   |
| <i>Brian A. Joyce</i>    | <i>Norfolk, Bristol and Plymouth</i> |
| <i>John J. Lawn, Jr.</i> | <i>10th Middlesex</i>                |

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 121**

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By Ms. Khan of Newton, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 121) of Kay Khan and others relative to the authority of the Disabled Persons Protection Commission. Children, Families and Persons with Disabilities.

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[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION  
SEE  
□ HOUSE  
□ , NO. 62 OF 2011-2012.]

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**In the Year Two Thousand Thirteen**  
\_\_\_\_\_

An Act relative to the authority of the Disabled Persons Protection Commission.

*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 19C of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2008  
2 Official Edition, is hereby amended as follows:-

3 By striking out the first paragraph as so appearing on lines 1-2, and inserting in place  
4 thereof the following words: -

5 For the sole purposes of this chapter, the following words shall, unless the  
6 context requires otherwise, have the following meanings:-

7 Said Section 1 is further amended by striking out the words “disabled person’s” in lines  
8 9-10 and inserting in place thereof the words:-

9 person with a disability

10 Said Section 1 is further amended by striking out the words “disabled person” on lines 11  
11 and 15 and inserting in place thereof the words:-

12 person with a disability

13 Said Section 1 is further amended by striking out the words “chapter one hundred and  
14 twenty-three” on lines 16-17, and inserting in place thereof the following:-

15 Chapter 123B –

16 Said Section 1 is further amended by striking out the definition of "General Counsel" or  
17 "counsel" on lines 20-21.

18 Said Section 1 is further amended by striking out the words “disabled persons” on line 30  
19 and inserting in place thereof the words:-

20 persons with a disability

21 And further, by striking out the words “disabled person” on line 31 and inserting in place  
22 thereof the words:-

23 persons with a disability

24 Said Section 1 is further amended by striking out the words “disabled person or persons”  
25 on lines 37 and 39 and inserting in place thereof the words:-

26 person(s) with a disability

27 Said Section 1 is further amended by striking out the words "including un-consented to  
28 sexual activity" on line 42 and inserting in place thereof the following: -

29 . . . , including but not limited to, un-assented to sexual activity

30 Said Section 1 is further amended by striking out the words “disabled persons” as so  
31 appearing on line 44 and inserting in place thereof the words:-

32 persons with a disability

33 SECTION 2. Section 2 of chapter 19C of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2008  
34 Official Edition, is hereby amended as follows:-

35 By striking out the words “disabled persons” in said section and inserting in place thereof  
36 the words:-

37 persons with disabilities

38 SECTION 3. Section 3 of chapter 19C of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2008  
39 Official Edition, is hereby amended as follows:-

40 By amending subsection (c) of said section by deleting the words “disabled persons”  
41 before the words “to be known as” on line 18 and inserting in place thereof the words:-

42 persons with disabilities

43 And by amending subsection (d) of said section by deleting the word “other” after the  
44 word “designate” on line 20.

45 Said Section 3 is further amended by amending subsection (f) by striking out the words  
46 “disabled persons” as so appearing on lines 26-27 and inserting in place thereof the words:-

47 persons with disabilities

48 Said Section 3 is further amended by striking out subsection (h) of said Section 3 on lines  
49 31-35 and inserting in place thereof the following:-

50 (h) to develop, in consultation with the secretary of the executive office of  
51 health and human services, standards for referral of investigations to the agencies within the  
52 executive office of health and human services pursuant to Section 4.

53 SECTION 4. Section 4 of chapter 19C of the General Laws as appearing in the 2008  
54 Official Edition, is hereby amended as follows:-

55 By amending the first sentence by striking the words "disabled person," and inserting in  
56 place thereof the words:-

57 person with a disability

58 And further by inserting before the words "the commission shall" the following:-

59 . . . and subject to the commission's authority to conduct its own investigation

60 Said Section 4 is further amended by amending subsection (b) of said section by striking  
61 out the first sentence on lines 10-16 and inserting in place thereof the following:-

62 . . . refer immediately any such reports, which allege the occurrence of abuse to a  
63 person with a disability whose caretaker is an agency of the commonwealth, a facility licensed  
64 by an agency of the commonwealth or a private agency which provides services or treatment to  
65 persons with disabilities pursuant to a contract or agreement with an agency of the  
66 commonwealth, to an investigator of the commission or to the department within the executive  
67 office of health and human services which has jurisdiction over the disability manifested by  
68 the person with a disability.

69 Said Section 4 is further amended by amending subsection (c) of said section 4 by  
70 striking out the first paragraph on lines 25-33 and inserting in place thereof the following:-

71 (c) refer immediately any such reports, which allege the occurrence of abuse of a  
72 person with a disability whose caretaker is other than an agency of the commonwealth, a facility  
73 licensed by an agency of the commonwealth or a private agency which provides services or

74 treatment to persons with disabilities pursuant to a contract or agreement with an agency of the  
75 commonwealth to the commission; the Department of Mental Health in those cases where the  
76 disabled person is suffering from a mental illness, the Department of Developmental Services  
77 where the person with a disability is a person with developmental disabilities, or to the  
78 Massachusetts Rehabilitation Commission where the person with a disability is otherwise  
79 physically disabled. Upon such referral, the commission or said Department shall immediately  
80 designate an investigator who shall investigate such allegation of abuse as provided in Section 5.

81 Said Section 4 is further amended by adding immediately after subsection (c) the  
82 following:-

83 (d) In every case in which an investigation is conducted pursuant to section 4(b) or  
84 section 4(c) of chapter 19C and the alleged victim is at risk of harm, the appropriate protective  
85 service agency as designated by the commission shall make reasonable efforts to alleviate the  
86 risk of further harm by providing protective services not later than the initiation of said  
87 investigation to insure the safety of the person with a disability. In conducting such investigation,  
88 the designated investigator may seek and utilize the assistance of municipal and state police  
89 officer. If during said investigation, access to the disabled person is denied to the designated  
90 investigator, an appropriate municipal or state police officer shall, upon request, accompany the  
91 designated investigator to gain access to the person with a disability.

92 Said Section 4 is further amended by striking out the last paragraph of subsection (c)  
93 lines 34-66 and inserting in place thereof the following:-

94 (e) Upon receipt of a written determination and evaluation prepared and forwarded to  
95 the commission pursuant to the provisions of section 5 or upon receipt of a report of abuse of a  
96 person with a disability where the commission, in accordance with written standards established  
97 by the commission, determines that the report may contain allegations of criminal conduct,  
98 including but not limited to (1) a person with a disability has been sexually abused or raped, or  
99 assaulted or battered as set forth in chapter 265; (2) a person with a disability has suffered brain  
100 injury, loss or substantial impairment of a bodily function or organ, or substantial disfigurement;  
101 or (3) a person with a disability has suffered a serious bodily injury as a result of a pattern of  
102 repetitive actions or inactions by a caretaker; the commission, notwithstanding any provision of  
103 chapter 66A regarding personal data to the contrary, shall immediately refer such report to the  
104 special investigative unit, established pursuant to section 3(i) of chapter 19C, which shall  
105 conduct an initial evaluation and investigation of the alleged criminal conduct. Upon completion  
106 of such evaluation and investigation, said special investigative unit shall report the results of  
107 such evaluation and investigation to the Commissioners who, notwithstanding any provision of  
108 chapter 66A regarding personal data to the contrary, shall, if the special investigative unit has  
109 determined that there is reason to believe that a criminal offense has been committed,  
110 immediately refer such report, together with any relevant information obtained in such initial  
111 investigation, to the Attorney General or District Attorney for the county wherein the alleged

112 criminal offense occurred. Upon receipt of such report, the Attorney General or District Attorney  
113 for the county wherein the alleged criminal offense occurred shall contact the commission in  
114 order to coordinate the investigation of the matters giving rise to the report. As part of such  
115 coordination, the Attorney General or the District Attorney may request that the commission  
116 delay or defer the investigation of the non-criminal matters giving rise to the report; provided,  
117 however, that such request shall be granted only where the commission determines that the  
118 health and the safety of the alleged victim of abuse shall not be adversely affected thereby and  
119 that the commission's or department's ability to conduct a later investigation shall not be  
120 unreasonably impaired by such delay or deferral. In all cases including, but not limited to, those  
121 in which the commission agrees to delay or defer the non-criminal investigation, the Attorney  
122 General or District Attorney shall keep the commission informed of the status of the criminal  
123 investigation and the commission shall provide to the Attorney General or the District Attorney  
124 any and all information that may be relevant to the criminal investigation. In cases in which the  
125 commission agrees to delay or defer the non-criminal investigation, it shall monitor the progress  
126 of the criminal investigation and shall determine, after consultation with the appropriate law  
127 enforcement agencies, when or whether the non-criminal investigation should be initiated or  
128 resumed. No person providing notification or information to the commission, the commission's  
129 special investigative unit, the district attorney, or attorney general or providing testimony in  
130 court in furtherance of the provisions of this section shall be liable in any civil or criminal action  
131 by reason of such action.

132 SECTION 5. Section 5 of chapter 19C of the General Laws as appearing in the 2008  
133 Official Edition, is hereby amended as follows:-

134 The first sentence as so appearing on lines 1-4 shall be amended by deleting the words  
135 "disabled person" and inserting in place thereof the words:-

136 person with a disability

137 And further, by deleting the words "the general counsel," and "executive office of human  
138 services" and inserting in place thereof the words:-

139

140 "Executive Office of Health and Human Services"

141 Subsection (1) of said Section 5 is hereby amended by striking out on lines 7-8 the words  
142 "counsel or department of mental health or the department of public health" and inserting in  
143 place thereof the words: -

144 the Department of Mental Health, the Department of Developmental Services or the  
145 Massachusetts Rehabilitation Commission

146 Subsection(1) of said Section 5 is hereby further amended by striking out the words  
147 “disabled person’s” on line 11 and inserting place thereof the words:-

148 person with a disability

149 And further by striking out the words “disabled person” on line 12 and inserting in place  
150 thereof the words:-

151 person with a disability

152 Said subsection (1) of said Section 5 is hereby further amended by striking out on lines  
153 16-18 the words "to the general counsel and to the department of mental health and the  
154 department of public health" and inserting in place thereof the words:-

155 and to the Department of Mental Health, the Department of Developmental Services  
156 or the Massachusetts Rehabilitation Commission, as appropriate

157 Subsection (3) of said Section 5 is hereby amended by striking out the words "the general  
158 counsel, the department of mental health and the department of public health" on lines 42-43 and  
159 inserting in place thereof the words:-

160 and the Department of Mental Health, the Department of Developmental Services or  
161 the Massachusetts Rehabilitation Commission, as appropriate

162 Subsection (4) of said Section 5 is hereby amended by striking out the words “a disabled  
163 person” on line 46 and inserting in place thereof the words:-

164 a person with a disability

165 Subsection (5) of said Section 5 is hereby amended by deleting the second and third  
166 paragraphs on lines 59-77.

167 SECTION 6. Section 6 of Chapter 19C of the General Laws as appearing in the 2008  
168 Official Edition, is hereby amended by striking out the first paragraph on lines 1-9 and inserting  
169 in place thereof the following:-

170 Acting through state agencies within the executive office of health and human  
171 services designated by the commission for the purpose of providing protective services as  
172 necessary to prevent further abuse in cases investigated pursuant to this chapter and subject to  
173 the oversight of the commission, the commission shall:

174 Section 6 of Chapter 19C, subsection (1) and subsection (3) are hereby amended by  
175 striking out the words “a disabled person” and inserting in place thereof the words:-

176 a person with a disability

177 SECTION 7. Section 7 of Chapter 19C of the General Laws as appearing in the 2008  
178 Official Edition, is hereby amended as follows:-

179 Subsection (a) of said Section 7 is hereby amended by striking out the words "the general  
180 counsel, department of mental health or the department of public health" on lines 1-2, and  
181 inserting in place thereof the words:-

182 the Department of Mental Health, the Department Developmental Services or the  
183 Massachusetts Rehabilitation Commission

184 Subsection (a) of Section 7 is further amended by striking out the words "disabled  
185 person" on lines 3, 6, 11, 12, 15, 17, 19, 21, and 27 and inserting in place thereof the words:-

186 person with a disability

187 Subsection (a) of said Section 7 is hereby further amended by deleting the word  
188 "counsel" on lines 5 and 8.

189 Subsection (b) of said Section 7 is hereby amended by deleting the words "counsel or"  
190 line 31 and on line 35.

191 Subsection (b) of said Section 7 is hereby further amended by striking out the phrase ". .  
192 .the court may order the provision of protective services on an emergency basis. . ." on lines 46-  
193 47 and inserting in its stead the following words:-

194 and no other person who is authorized to consent is available or willing to consent,  
195 the court may order protective services on an emergency basis and the court in ordering the  
196 provision of protective services on an emergency basis may appoint a conservator, guardian or  
197 other person authorized to consent to the provision of protective services; provided however, that  
198 the court shall establish the least restrictive fiduciary representation that will satisfy addressing  
199 the emergency and needs of such person with a disability.

200 Subsection (b) of said Section 7 is hereby further amended by striking out the words  
201 "Said order may be extended for an additional seventy-two hour period if the court finds that  
202 such extension is necessary to remove the emergency" on lines 51-53 and inserting in its stead  
203 the following:-

204 Said order may be extended for an additional period of time if the court finds that such  
205 extension is necessary to remove the emergency or to address the needs of such person with a  
206 disability

207 Subsection (c) of said Section 7 is hereby amended by striking out the words "disabled  
208 person" on lines 56-57 and inserting in place thereof the words:-

209 person with a disability



210 Subsection (c) of said Section 7 is hereby amended by deleting on line 58 the word  
211 "counsel."

212 Subsection (d) of said Section 7 is hereby amended by striking out the words "disabled  
213 person" on lines 62, 64 and 65 and inserting in place thereof the words:-

214 person with a disability

215 SECTION 8. Section 8 of chapter 19C of the General Laws as appearing in the 2008  
216 Official Edition, is hereby amended by striking out the words "disabled person" on line 2 and  
217 inserting in place thereof the following:-

218 person with a disability

219 And further by striking out the words "disabled persons" on line 5 and inserting in place  
220 thereof the following:-

221 persons with disabilities.

222 Section 8 is further amended by striking out the words "...whose caretaker is a state  
223 agency" on lines 2 and 5-6, and inserting in place thereof the words:-

224 . . . whose caretaker is an agency of the commonwealth, a facility licensed by an  
225 agency of the commonwealth or a private agency which provides services or treatment to persons  
226 with disabilities pursuant to a contract or agreement with an agency of the commonwealth

227 SECTION 9. Section 9 of chapter 19C, as appearing in the 2008 Official Edition, is  
228 hereby amended by striking out lines 1-2 and inserting in place thereof the words:-

229 Upon completion of any investigation conducted pursuant to this chapter, including  
230 but not limited to a formal investigation conducted pursuant to section 8, and notwithstanding  
231 any provision of chapter 66A regarding personal data to the contrary, the commission shall:

232 Section 9 of said chapter 19C is hereby further amended by adding the following  
233 subsection after subsection (d):-

234 (e) refer any matters for which there is reason to believe that professional misconduct  
235 has occurred to the agency of the commonwealth having jurisdiction over such professional  
236 conduct for possible imposition of disciplinary measures in accordance with the requirements of  
237 any applicable law or regulation.

238 SECTION 10. Section 10 of chapter 19C, as appearing in the 2008 Official Edition, is  
239 hereby amended by striking out the words "disabled person" on lines 6-7 and 12 and inserting in  
240 place thereof the following:-

241 person with a disability

242 SECTION 11. Section 11 of chapter 19C as appearing in the 2008 Official Edition, is  
243 hereby amended by striking out the words “general counsel” as appearing on lines 5-6.

244 Section 11 of Chapter 19C is further amended by striking out the words “disabled  
245 person” on line 9 and inserting in place thereof the following:-

246 person with a disability

247 SECTION 12. Section 13 of chapter 19C as appearing in the 2008 Official Edition is  
248 hereby amended by striking out the words “disabled person” from the title and inserting in place  
249 thereof the words:-

250 a person with a disability

251 Section 13 is further hereby amended by striking out on lines 1-3 the following words  
252 “any disabled person whose caretaker was a state agency or an agency of any subdivision of the  
253 commonwealth or a private agency contracting with the commonwealth” and inserting in place  
254 thereof the following:-

255 any person with a disability whose caretaker is an agency of the commonwealth, a  
256 subdivision of the commonwealth, a facility licensed by an agency of the commonwealth or a  
257 private agency which provides services or treatment to a person with disabilities pursuant to a  
258 contract or agreement with an agency or the commonwealth