

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 00181**

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The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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PRESENTED BY:

***Peter J. Koutoujian***

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*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 dementia special care units in long-term care facilities.

\_\_\_\_\_  
PETITION OF:

NAME:

*Peter J. Koutoujian*

DISTRICT/ADDRESS:

*10th Middlesex*

# HOUSE . . . . . No. 00181

By Mr. Koutoujian of Waltham, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 181) of Peter J. Koutoujian relative to dementia special care units in long term care facilities. Elder Affairs.

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION  
SEE  
□ HOUSE  
□ , NO. 537 OF 2009-2010.]

## The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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**In the Year Two Thousand Eleven**  
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An Act relative to dementia special care units in long-term care facilities.

*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. Chapter 111 of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after section 71B  
2 the following section:-

3 Section 71C. (a) A licensee under section 71 that holds itself out to the public or advertises that it  
4 is a provider of specialized services and programming for dementia special care units in long-  
5 term care facilities must meet the criteria set forth under this section in order to provide said  
6 services.

7 (b) Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, the department of public health,  
8 in consultation with the Alzheimer?s Association of Massachusetts and representatives from the

9 nursing home provider community, shall adopt regulations to establish minimum standards for  
10 dementia special care units to ensure safety and quality of services including:

11 Dementia-specific training for all direct care workers in nursing homes in both traditional and  
12 dementia special care units (SCUs).

13 Activities programs in SCUs that provide dementia-specific activities.

14 Guidelines for SCU physical design including but not limited to anti-wandering methods and a  
15 therapeutic environment.

16 Nursing homes that operate SCUs must disclose to consumers and the Massachusetts Department  
17 of Public health what specialized services the SCU provides for patients affected by Alzheimer?s  
18 and related dementias.

19 SECTION 2. ?The department of public health shall adopt its initial regulations to implement  
20 this act not later than January 1, 2010.