

HOUSE No. 3479

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Kate Hogan

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:

An Act relative to senior hoarding.

PETITION OF:

NAME:

Kate Hogan

DISTRICT/ADDRESS:

3rd Middlesex

HOUSE No. 3479

By Ms. Hogan of Stow, a petition (subject to Joint Rule 12) of Kate Hogan relative to senior hoarding. Elder Affairs.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

An Act relative to senior hoarding.

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 14 of Chapter 19A of the General Laws, as so appearing, is hereby
2 amended by striking out the first paragraph and inserting in place thereof the following
3 paragraph:

4 “Abuse”, an Act or omission which results in serious physical or emotional injury to an
5 elderly person or financial exploitation of an elderly person; or the failure, inability or resistance
6 of an elderly person to provide for him one or more of the necessities essential for safety,
7 physical and emotional well-being without which the elderly person would be unable to safely
8 remain in the community. The term includes compulsive hoarding, which is characterized by the
9 acquisition and retention of large quantities of items and materials, resulting in an extensively
10 cluttered living space that substantially impedes the performance of essential self-care tasks or
11 threatens the health and safety of the resident. Hoarding is often characterized by a lack of
12 insight into the health/safety risks caused by the hoarding. No person shall be considered to be
13 abused or neglected for the sole reason that such person is being furnished or relies upon
14 treatment in accordance with the tenets and teachings of a church or religious denomination by a
15 duly accredited practitioner thereof.