

HOUSE No. 3552

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Thomas P. Walsh

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 nursing homes.

PETITION OF:

NAME:

Thomas P. Walsh

DISTRICT/ADDRESS:

12th Essex

HOUSE No. 3552

By Mr. Walsh of Peabody, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 3552) of Thomas P. Walsh relative to floor plans for certain nursing homes. Elder Affairs.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

**In the One Hundred and Ninety-First General Court
(2019-2020)**

An Act relative to nursing homes.

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
2 section 72D the following section:-

3 Section 72D ½. (a) The bedroom of each resident, as that term is defined in section 72F,
4 shall have a floor area of not less than 125 square feet for single occupancy rooms and not less
5 than 90 per bed for multiple occupancy rooms.

6 (b) The bedroom of each resident, as that term is defined in said section 72F, shall be
7 shaped and sized so each bed may be placed at least 4 feet from any lateral wall and at least 4
8 feet from any window or radiator. Beds shall be spaced at least 3 feet from any other bed and an
9 unobstructed passageway of at least 6 feet shall be maintained at the foot of each bed. Variations
10 in bed placement and dimensions shall be permitted only with the approval of the department;
11 provided, however, that the unobstructed passageway shall never be less than 4 feet.

12 (c) As used in this section, the word “floor area” shall not include any closet, vestibule or
13 toilet room areas.

14 SECTION 2. Section 72D ½ of chapter 111 of the General Laws, inserted by section 1,
15 shall not apply to bedrooms of a facility licensed under section 71 of said chapter 111 on the
16 effective date of this act.

17 SECTION 3. Section 2 is hereby repealed.

18 SECTION 4. Section 3 shall take effect on January 1, 2025.