

HOUSE No. 543

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Jonathan Hecht

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 creating a special commission on institutional long term care.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:
<i>Jonathan Hecht</i>	<i>29th Middlesex</i>
<i>Carlo Basile</i>	<i>1st Suffolk</i>
<i>Sarah K. Peake</i>	<i>4th Barnstable</i>
<i>Ruth B. Balsler</i>	<i>12th Middlesex</i>
<i>Carlos Henriquez</i>	<i>5th Suffolk</i>
<i>Carl M. Sciortino, Jr.</i>	<i>34th Middlesex</i>
<i>Benjamin Swan</i>	<i>11th Hampden</i>
<i>Mary S. Keefe</i>	<i>15th Worcester</i>
<i>Christine E. Canavan</i>	<i>10th Plymouth</i>
<i>Denise Andrews</i>	<i>2nd Franklin</i>
<i>Kenneth I. Gordon</i>	<i>21st Middlesex</i>
<i>Cheryl A. Coakley-Rivera</i>	<i>10th Hampden</i>
<i>Jason M. Lewis</i>	<i>31st Middlesex</i>
<i>Michael D. Brady</i>	<i>9th Plymouth</i>
<i>Tom Sannicandro</i>	<i>7th Middlesex</i>
<i>Jeffrey N. Roy</i>	<i>10th Norfolk</i>
<i>David M. Rogers</i>	<i>24th Middlesex</i>
<i>James M. Murphy</i>	<i>4th Norfolk</i>

<i>Denise Provost</i>	<i>27th Middlesex</i>
<i>Carolyn C. Dykema</i>	<i>8th Middlesex</i>
<i>Frank A. Moran</i>	<i>17th Essex</i>
<i>Thomas P. Conroy</i>	<i>13th Middlesex</i>
<i>Jay R. Kaufman</i>	<i>15th Middlesex</i>
<i>Barry R. Finegold</i>	<i>Second Essex and Middlesex</i>
<i>Thomas M. Stanley</i>	<i>9th Middlesex</i>
<i>Chris Walsh</i>	<i>6th Middlesex</i>
<i>Robert F. Fennell</i>	<i>10th Essex</i>
<i>James J. O'Day</i>	<i>14th Worcester</i>
<i>Bruce E. Tarr</i>	<i>First Essex and Middlesex</i>
<i>Paul R. Heroux</i>	<i>2nd Bristol</i>
<i>Kay Khan</i>	<i>11th Middlesex</i>

HOUSE No. 543

By Mr. Hecht of Watertown, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 543) of Jonathan Hecht and others for an investigation by a special commission (including members of the General Court) relative to institutional long term care in the Commonwealth. Elder Affairs.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand Thirteen

An Act creating a special commission on institutional long term care.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1 Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled,
2 and by the authority of the same, as follows:

3 SECTION 1. Notwithstanding any general or special laws to the contrary, there shall be
4 established a Special Commission on Institutional Long Term Care. This Commission shall
5 evaluate options and prepare policy recommendations necessary to address excess skilled
6 nursing home bed inventory, to reform the skilled nursing home licensing and de-licensing
7 processes, and to establish more rational processes for the closure of skilled nursing homes.
8 Such recommendations shall include policy options concerning the following:

9 a) Potential savings to the Commonwealth and improvements to care delivery that
10 could be realized by reducing the number of skilled nursing facility beds;

11 b) Criteria to be used to determine which beds should be de-licensed, including but
12 not limited to quality care standards and measures of regional geographic need;

13 c) Potential incentives for skilled nursing home operators that would help to reduce
14 the number of skilled nursing facility beds and/or would facilitate conversion of under-utilized
15 beds to other uses;

16 d) Improvements to the MassHealth reimbursement system for skilled nursing
17 facilities; and

18 e) Any other recommendations as needed to more effectively utilize institutional
19 long term care facilities in the Commonwealth.

20 SECTION 2. The Commission shall consist of 15 members, 1 of whom shall be the
21 secretary of health and human services or a designee, 1 of whom shall be the secretary of elder
22 affairs or a designee, 1 of whom shall be the director of the office of Medicaid or a designee, 1 of
23 whom shall be the Attorney General or a designee, 1 of whom shall be the State Auditor or a
24 designee, 1 of whom shall be the house chair of the joint committee on elder affairs or a
25 designee, 1 of whom shall be the senate chair of the joint committee on elder affairs or a
26 designee, 1 of whom shall be the senate chair of the joint committee on health care financing or a
27 designee, 1 of whom shall be the house chair of the joint committee on health care financing or a
28 designee, 1 of whom shall be a member of the PCA quality home care workforce council, and 5
29 persons to be appointed by the governor, 1 of whom shall be a representative of the Department
30 of Public Health, 1 of whom shall be a representative of 1199SEIU, 1 of whom shall be a
31 representative of the Massachusetts Senior Care Association, 1 of whom shall be a representative
32 of AARP, and 1 of whom shall be a representative of the Massachusetts Alzheimer's
33 Association.

34 SECTION 3. The Commission shall meet within 60 days of passage of this Act, and not
35 less than quarterly thereafter, and shall release final recommendations to the Senate President,
36 the Speaker of the House, the Joint Committee on Elder Affairs and the Health Planning Council
37 no later than one year from passage of this Act.