

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 980**

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**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

PRESENTED BY:

*Josh S. Cutler*

*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 the safety of autistic and alzheimer individuals.

PETITION OF:

| NAME:                   | DISTRICT/ADDRESS:     | DATE ADDED:      |
|-------------------------|-----------------------|------------------|
| <i>Josh S. Cutler</i>   | <i>6th Plymouth</i>   | <i>1/5/2023</i>  |
| <i>James K. Hawkins</i> | <i>2nd Bristol</i>    | <i>1/27/2023</i> |
| <i>Carol A. Doherty</i> | <i>3rd Bristol</i>    | <i>2/2/2023</i>  |
| <i>Alan Silvia</i>      | <i>7th Bristol</i>    | <i>2/10/2023</i> |
| <i>Paul McMurtry</i>    | <i>11th Norfolk</i>   | <i>2/20/2023</i> |
| <i>Vanna Howard</i>     | <i>17th Middlesex</i> | <i>2/27/2023</i> |
| <i>Bruce J. Ayers</i>   | <i>1st Norfolk</i>    | <i>3/9/2023</i>  |

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 980**

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By Mr. Cutler of Pembroke, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. [BILL NUMBER]) of Josh S. Cutler for legislation to provide insurance coverage for the use of electronic tracking devices to protect the safety of persons with Autism spectrum disorder or Alzheimer’s disease. Financial Services.

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[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION  
SEE HOUSE, NO. 1235 OF 2021-2022.]

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

—————  
**In the One Hundred and Ninety-Third General Court  
(2023-2024)**  
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An Act relative to the safety of autistic and alzheimer individuals.

*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 118E of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2014 Official  
2 Edition, is hereby amended by inserting after section 9C the following section:-

3 Section 9D. (a) Definitions. As used in the section:

4 (i) “Technology-Assisted Tracking Device” shall mean any wearable device that  
5 complies with the following imperatives:

6 a) Waterproof and able to function under water (which is a major destination as seen  
7 above), compliant with IP66 and IP68 standards

8           b) Works indoors or under cover (Radio Frequency is the best technology for this), and  
9 does not need direct line of sight to the sky (GPS)

10           c) Not dependent on third-party public communication networks (such as cellular, GSM,  
11 GPRS, or similar as these are NOT prevalent everywhere)

12           d) Wrist or ankle strap needs to be tamper-resistant, but changeable by the caregiver  
13 directly

14           e) System specifics need to avoid false alarms in order not to waste LE and SAR time,  
15 and have a patient specific code for each device so as to avoid mistaken identities

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17           (b) A health benefit plan shall provide full coverage, subject to all applicable co-  
18 payments, coinsurance, deductibles, and out-of-pocket limits, for insured individuals who are  
19 diagnosed by a license physician with dementia, Alzheimer's disease, or Autism spectrum  
20 Disorder, to obtain a Technology-Assisted Tracking Device if they or their guardian choose.