

SENATE No. 1141

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Diana DiZoglio

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 best practices for sober homes.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	
<i>Diana DiZoglio</i>	<i>First Essex</i>	
<i>Patrick M. O'Connor</i>	<i>Plymouth and Norfolk</i>	<i>1/29/2019</i>

SENATE No. 1141

By Ms. DiZoglio, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 1141) of Diana DiZoglio and Patrick M. O'Connor for legislation relative to best practices for sober homes. Mental Health, Substance Use and Recovery.

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION
SEE HOUSE, NO. 4466 OF 2017-2018.]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

An Act relative to best practices for sober 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. Section 18A of Chapter 17 of the General Laws is hereby amended by
2 inserting after the word “practices”, in line 18, the following words:- ,comply with standards of
3 best practice as established by rules and regulations promulgated pursuant to this section.

4 SECTION 2. Section 18A of said Chapter 17 of the General Laws is hereby further
5 amended by adding the following subsection:

6 (i) The department of public health shall establish a special task force on alcohol and
7 drug free housing to investigate best practices for alcohol and drug free housing in the
8 commonwealth, including but not limited to; (i) the presence of on-site supervisors; (ii) access to
9 treatment; (iii) proper medication dispensing practices; (iv) local zoning control over such

10 housing; and (v) persons released on probation for drug-related offenses and ordered to reside in
11 such housing, including the recidivism rate of such persons and the role of the probation officers
12 and the sheriff's department in the process of monitoring such persons after their release to such
13 housing. The department shall promulgate rules and regulations establishing standards of best
14 practice for alcohol and drug free housing based on the results of the investigation conducted by
15 the task force. Only those facilities that meet these standards shall be authorized to be known as
16 "sober homes."