

SENATE No. 00284

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Marc R. Pacheco

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 relative to dementia special care units in long-term care facilities..

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:
<i>Marc R. Pacheco</i>	<i>First Plymouth and Bristol</i>
<i>Patricia D. Jehlen</i>	<i>Second Middlesex</i>
<i>David B. Sullivan</i>	<i>6th Bristol</i>

SENATE No. 00284

By Mr. Pacheco, petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 284) of Sullivan, Jehlen and Pacheco for legislation relative to dementia special care units in long-term care facilities [Joint Committee on Elder Affairs].

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION
SEE
□ SENATE
□ , NO. 323 OF 2009-2010.]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand Eleven

An Act relative to dementia special care units in long-term care facilities..

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 71B the following section:-

3 Section 71C. (a) A licensee under section 71 that holds itself out to the public or advertises that it
4 is a provider of specialized services and programming for dementia special care units in long-
5 term care facilities must meet the criteria set forth under this section in order to provide said
6 services.

7 (b) Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, the department of public
8 health, in consultation with the Alzheimer’s Association of Massachusetts and representatives

9 from the nursing home provider community, shall adopt regulations to establish minimum
10 standards for dementia special care units to ensure safety and quality of services including:

- 11 Dementia-specific training for all direct care workers in nursing homes in both traditional and
- 12 dementia special care units (SCUs).
- 13 Activities programs in SCUs that provide dementia-specific activities.
- 14 Guidelines for SCU physical design including but not limited to anti-wandering methods and a
- 15 therapeutic environment.
- 16 Nursing homes that operate SCUs must disclose to consumers and the Massachusetts Department
- 17 of Public health what specialized services the SCU provides for patients affected by Alzheimer's
- 18 and related dementias.

19 SECTION 2. The department of public health shall adopt its initial regulations to
20 implement this act not later than January 1, 2012.