

**SENATE . . . . . No. 356**

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**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

PRESENTED BY:

***Patricia D. Jehlen***

*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 assisting elders and people with disabilities in the Commonwealth.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	
<i>Patricia D. Jehlen</i>	<i>Second Middlesex</i>	
<i>Mary S. Keefe</i>	<i>15th Worcester</i>	<i>1/31/2019</i>
<i>Sal N. DiDomenico</i>	<i>Middlesex and Suffolk</i>	<i>2/1/2019</i>
<i>Michael O. Moore</i>	<i>Second Worcester</i>	<i>2/1/2019</i>
<i>Kay Khan</i>	<i>11th Middlesex</i>	<i>2/1/2019</i>
<i>Mike Connolly</i>	<i>26th Middlesex</i>	<i>2/1/2019</i>

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By Ms. Jehlen, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 356) of Patricia D. Jehlen, Mary S. Keefe, Sal N. DiDomenico, Michael O. Moore and other members of the General Court for legislation to provide emergency aid to certain elderly and disabled residents. Elder Affairs.

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[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION  
SEE SENATE, NO. 2039 OF 2017-2018.]

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

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

An Act relative to assisting elders and people with disabilities in the Commonwealth.

*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 1 of chapter 117A of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2016  
2 Official Edition, is hereby amended by adding the following paragraph:-Any homeless person,  
3 (i) who has no established place of abode, or who lives in a temporary emergency shelter, and  
4 (ii) who is otherwise eligible under the provisions of this chapter, shall receive the same payment  
5 rate as recipients who incur shelter costs including, but not limited to rent or a mortgage. The  
6 department shall promulgate or revise any such rules and regulations necessary to implement the  
7 provisions of this section.

8           SECTION 2. Chapter 117A of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after  
9 section 10 the following new section:- Section 11. Effective July first of every year the  
10 department shall increase the total budget of each eligible recipient, before taking into

11 consideration any available income and resources, by a percentage amount equal to the  
12 percentage rise in the United States Consumer Price Index for January first of that year over the  
13 level of said index for January first of the previous year plus such additional percentage amount  
14 as is recommended annually by the department and appropriated by the general court. The  
15 department shall promulgate such rules and regulations to implement the provisions of this  
16 section.

17 SECTION 3. Chapter 117A of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after  
18 section 10 the following new section: Section 12. The combined assets of an assistance unit may  
19 not exceed \$2,500. In determining countable assets, the department shall exclude the first  
20 \$15,000 in fair market value of a vehicle; provided that the commissioner may grant a waiver for  
21 a vehicle with a market value in excess of \$15,000 if the commissioner determines the vehicle is  
22 necessary for employment or because of other household circumstances.

23 SECTION 4. Chapter 117A of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after  
24 section 10 the following new section: Section 13. The department shall set the maximum benefit  
25 for the program in this chapter at the same level as the program in chapter 118 of the General  
26 Laws. The department shall promulgate such rules and regulations necessary to implement the  
27 provisions of this section.