

HOUSE No.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Kevin G. Honan

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 community housing and services.

PETITION OF:

NAME:

Kevin G. Honan

DISTRICT/ADDRESS:

17th Suffolk

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand and Nine

AN ACT RELATIVE TO COMMUNITY HOUSING AND SERVICES.

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. The Executive Office of Health and Human Services, Executive Office of Housing and
2 Economic Development, the Executive Office of Elder Affairs, the Executive Office of Veterans Services,
3 the Department of Housing and Community Development, the Department of Transitional Assistance,
4 the Department of Developmental Services, the Department of Mental Health, the Department of
5 Children and Families, the Department of Public Health, the Massachusetts Rehabilitation Commission,
6 Massachusetts Commission for the Blind, Massachusetts Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing,
7 the Massachusetts Housing Finance Agency, the Massachusetts Housing Partnership and the Community
8 Economic Development Assistance Corporation shall develop and execute a memorandum of
9 understanding which shall include an action plan to coordinate the procurement and availability of
10 community based supportive services, capital subsidies, and operating subsidies for new and existing
11 housing available to low and extremely low income residents to be known as the community housing
12 and services memorandum of understanding. The memorandum of understanding shall identify and
13 resolve barriers and reduce fragmentation for the provision of community based supportive services and
14 affordable housing.

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16 The community housing and services memorandum of understanding shall be filed with the Governor,
17 Lieutenant Governor, the Joint Committee on Housing, the Joint Committee on Elder Affairs, the Joint

18 Committee on Children, Families and Persons with Disabilities, the Senate Committee on Ways and
19 Means and the House Committee on Ways and Means no later than March 15, 2010.

20

21 Said memorandum shall facilitate the creation of a demonstration program that creates no less than one
22 thousand units of permanent supported housing that includes coordinated operating, capital subsidies
23 and voluntary community based supportive services within three years of enactment of this act,
24 provided that the aforementioned agencies shall assess the need for permanent supportive housing to
25 serve the Commonwealth's homeless or at-risk of homelessness, people with disabilities, and elders and
26 shall establish a long range target to produce new supportive housing opportunities to meet the
27 Commonwealth's need.

28

29 Community based supportive services shall include, but need not be limited to: resident service
30 coordinators, housing support teams and other models to link low and extremely low income tenants
31 with any services necessary to maintain their tenancy, or direct community-based social services or
32 other services necessary to maintain a successful tenancy, provided that a tenant's receipt of services
33 shall not be an eligibility requirement or a requirement of maintaining a tenancy under the plan.

34

35 The plan shall establish benchmarks to assess financial savings to the Commonwealth resulting from the
36 avoidance of institutionalization, shelter, or nursing care due to the availability of community based
37 housing support services.

38

39 SECTION 2. For a grant program to be known as the community housing supportive services action
40 grant, to be administered by the Interagency Council on Housing and Homelessness to support new and
41 existing low and extremely low income housing that is developed or provided with service coordination
42 in accordance with the community housing and services memorandum of understanding; provided that
43 applicants seeking to use said funds in conjunction with a new housing development receiving funds
44 authorized under chapter 119 of the acts of 2008, the Massachusetts Rental Voucher Program or section
45 8 of the United States Housing Act of 1937, as amended, shall do so by submitting a simultaneous
46 application for said funds; provided that housing that requires a tenant to receive social services to

47 maintain the housing shall not be eligible; provided further that no greater than four per cent of the
48 funds may be used to administer said program.....\$2,040,000