

SENATE NO. 771

AN ACT RELATIVE TO ASSESSING THE FUTURE NEED FOR ELDERLY HOUSING 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. The general court hereby finds that: the 2000 federal census figures and other
2 demographic data indicate that the elderly population in the commonwealth is estimated to
3 increase by 500,000 by the year 2020; the elderly represent the fastest growing homeless
4 population in Massachusetts; and the current supply of elderly public housing and affordable
5 housing as defined by the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development is not
6 sufficient to meet this demand. There shall be a special commission charged with determining:
7 the number of public housing and affordable units that need to be constructed in each region of
8 the commonwealth by 2020 to meet this demand; an estimate of the total cost of meeting this
9 demand; and an estimate of total costs to the commonwealth to meet this demand. The duties of
10 the commission shall also include: identification of existing programs that can be used to

11 facilitate state funding for such housing; recommendations for new state programs if existing
12 programs are not sufficient to meet the demand, and recommendations for how the
13 commonwealth can meet best meet the estimated state costs.

14 SECTION 2. The commission shall consist of 3 members of the senate, 1 of whom shall be the
15 senate chairman of the joint committee on housing and urban development and 1 of whom shall
16 be a member of the minority party; 3 members of the house of representatives, 1 of whom shall
17 be the chairman of the joint committee on housing and urban development and 1 of whom shall
18 be a member of the minority party, and 9 members to be appointed by the governor, 1 of whom
19 shall be the director of the housing and community development or his designee; 1 of whom
20 shall be the secretary of elder affairs or his designee; 1 of whom shall be a representative from
21 Massachusetts NAHRO; 1 of whom shall be a representative from the Massachusetts
22 Association of Regional Planning Councils; 1 of whom shall be the executive director of the
23 Massachusetts Housing Finance Agency or his designee; 1 of whom shall be a representative
24 from the Home Builders Association of Massachusetts, Inc.; 1 of whom shall be the director of
25 the Massachusetts Institute for Social and Economic Research or his designee; 1 of whom shall
26 be the executive director of Elder Services of the Merrimack Valley or his designee; 1 of whom
27 shall be the executive director of the Committee to End Elder homelessness and 1 of whom
28 shall be the executive director of the Massachusetts Housing and Shelter Alliance. The
29 commission shall be co-chaired by the senate and house co-chairs of the joint committee on
30 housing and urban development.

31 SECTION 3. The commission shall file a report of its findings and recommendations with the
32 house and senate committees on ways and means and the executive office of administration and
33 finance not later than July 1, 2003.