

HOUSE No. 3963

Text of an amendment recommended by the committee on Ways and Means to the Senate Bill relative to community housing and services (Senate, No. 1967, amended). February 27, 2012.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand Twelve

The Committee on Ways and Means recommends that the bill be amended by striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting in place thereof the following:-

1 SECTION 1. The executive office of health and human services, the executive office of housing
2 and economic development, the executive office of elder affairs, the department of veterans'
3 services, the department of housing and community development, the department of transitional
4 assistance, the department of developmental services, the department of mental health, the
5 department of children and families, the department of youth services, the department of
6 correction, the department of public health, the Massachusetts rehabilitation commission, the
7 Massachusetts commission for the blind, the Massachusetts commission for the deaf and hard of
8 hearing, the Massachusetts Housing Finance Agency, the Massachusetts housing partnership and
9 the Community Economic Development Assistance Corporation shall develop and execute a
10 memorandum of understanding to be known as the community housing and services
11 memorandum of understanding. The memorandum of understanding shall include an action plan
12 to coordinate the procurement and availability of community-based supportive services, capital
13 subsidies and operating subsidies for new and existing housing available to residents with very

14 low and extremely low-incomes, as those terms are defined by the United States Department of
15 Housing and Urban Development in 24 C.F.R. § 5.603. The action plan shall establish
16 benchmarks to assess financial savings to the commonwealth resulting from the avoidance of
17 institutionalization, shelter or nursing care due to the availability of community-based housing
18 supportive services. The memorandum of understanding shall identify and determine methods
19 and procedures for eliminating barriers and reducing fragmentation for the provision of
20 community-based supportive services and affordable housing. For the purposes of this act,
21 “community-based supportive services” shall include, but not be limited to, resident service
22 coordinators, housing support teams and other models to link very low and extremely low-
23 income tenants with services necessary to maintain their tenancy or direct community-based
24 social services, comprehensive institutional discharge planning services, or other services
25 necessary to maintain a successful tenancy; provided, that receipt of services by a tenant with a
26 disability shall not be an eligibility requirement or a requirement of maintaining a tenancy under
27 the action plan.

28 The community housing and services memorandum of understanding shall be filed with the
29 governor, the lieutenant governor, the joint committee on housing, the joint committee on elder
30 affairs, the joint committee on children, families and persons with disabilities and the house and
31 senate committees on ways and means no later than December 31, 2012.

32 The memorandum shall facilitate the creation of a demonstration program that creates up to
33 1,000 units of permanent supportive housing that includes coordinated operating, capital
34 subsidies and voluntary community-based supportive services by December 31, 2015; provided,
35 that the aforementioned agencies shall assess the need for permanent supportive housing to serve
36 the commonwealth’s homeless or at-risk of homelessness, people with disabilities and elders and

37 shall establish a long range target to produce new supportive housing opportunities to meet the
38 commonwealth's need.