

**An Act to improve Massachusetts home care
(SD.1036 / HD.1449)**

Lead Sponsors: Senator Pat Jehlen & Representative Tom Stanley

This legislation, supported by the The Enough Pay to Stay Coalition (The Home Care Aide Council, Home Care Alliance of Massachusetts, and Mass Aging Access), would establish licensing by EOHHS for non-medical personal care services. It would also authorize EOHHS, along with AGE and DPH, to develop regulations which would ensure consistent background screening and training for home care agency staff, as well as create a structure for managing complaints and for ensuring a safe working environment for both agency staff and the home care consumers they serve.

**An Act clarifying rate setting processes for home health and home care services
(SD.1034 / HD.650)**

Lead Sponsors: Senator Patricia Jehlen & Representative Carmine Gentile

This legislation, supported by the The Enough Pay to Stay Coalition (The Home Care Aide Council, Home Care Alliance of Massachusetts, and Mass Aging Access), would clarify established rate setting processes for home health and home care services to ensure that rates accurately reflect the true cost of providing home care and home health services to consumers across the Commonwealth. The rate setting process directly impacts and determines the ability of providers to retain and recruit sufficient staff to meet the Commonwealth's need to ensure the provision of home health and home care services to vulnerable older adults, persons with disabilities and children and individuals with medically complex needs. If this bill is passed, the Legislature will no longer need to fund supplemental rate add-ons for home care and home health workers every year through the state budget process.

**An Act supporting family caregivers
(SD.1509 / HD.3456)**

Lead Sponsors: Senator Joanne Comerford & Representatives Michael Kushmerek and David Rogers

This legislation would create an advisory council on family caregiving, allow spouses as eligible paid family caregivers under MassHealth, create vouchers to help families pay for respite services, provide a tax credit for family caregivers to help offset caregiving-related costs, facilitate family caregivers in qualifying for unemployment and protect them from workplace discrimination. It would also expand prescription drug coverage during a state of emergency.

**An Act relative to spouses as caregivers
(SD.1405)**

Lead Sponsor: Senator Bruce Tarr

Our state and nation are facing a significant crisis in our ability to recruit and retain enough home care workers to meet the needs of older adults and persons with disabilities. This simple and straightforward legislation would allow MassHealth to compensate spouses who are willing and able to serve as paid caregivers to their partners, something that is already permitted in a number of other states.