

SENATE No. 1787

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

SENATE, March 15, 1982.

The committee on Health Care, to whom was referred the petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 487) of the Legislative Council for Older Americans, by Frank Manning, Edward L. Burke, Gerard D'Amico, John G. King, Arthur Joseph Lewis, Jr., and Louis P. Bertonazzi for legislation to ensure privacy for nursing home residents; and the petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 665) of the Legislative Council for Older Americans, W. Paul White and other members of the House that provision be made for privacy for residents of nursing home, reports the accompanying bill, Senate, No. 1787).

For the Committee,

EDWARD L. BURKE

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Eighty-two.

AN ACT TO ENSURE PRIVACY FOR NURSING HOME RESIDENTS.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1 Chapter 111 of the General Laws is hereby amended by
2 striking out Section 72.D, inserted by Chapter 112 of the Acts
3 of 1975, and inserting in place thereof the following section: —
4 Every nursing home, rest home, and other long term care
5 facility shall provide telephone access for the use of the resi-
6 dents. Telephones shall be located as to assure privacy to the
7 fullest extent possible during usage. The telephone shall be
8 accessible and shall be positioned to accommodate use by
9 wheelchair residents, with accessibility to the dial set, and
10 shall provide for sound amplification. The Department of
11 Public Health shall promulgate regulations to implement this
12 section which shall allow for flexibiity in structure and which
13 shall provide for waivers for the private space requirements
14 where homes do not have physical space.