

**SENATE . . . . . No.**

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**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

PRESENTED BY:

**John A. Hart, Jr.**

*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 the Home of the Brave.**

PETITION OF:

NAME:

John A. Hart, Jr.

DISTRICT/ADDRESS:

First Suffolk

# The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

\_\_\_\_\_  
In the Year Two Thousand and Nine  
\_\_\_\_\_

## AN ACT RELATIVE TO THE HOME OF THE BRAVE.

*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 board of trustees of the Home of the Brave, Inc. a 5.01(c)(3) non-profit  
2 corporation may construct and operate public homes for veterans. Such homes shall be  
3 considered "State Homes". The construction, purchase, and operation shall be funded from  
4 available federal and state funds and private funds. The primary purpose of such Homes is to  
5 provide support and care for honorably discharged veterans who served in the Armed Forces of  
6 the United States for no less than 180 days.

7

8 SECTION 2. The corporation shall have, but not be limited to the following powers:-

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10 Make and execute contracts and all other instruments necessary or convenient for the  
11 exercise of its powers and functions under this chapter.

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13 Acquire, in the name of the home, real or personal property of any interest therein,  
14 including rights or easements, on either a temporary or long-term basis by gift, purchase,  
15 transfer, foreclosure, lease or otherwise.

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17 Hold, sell, assign, lease, rent, encumber, mortgage or otherwise dispose of any real or  
18 personal property, or any interest therein, or mortgage interest owned by it or in its control,

19 custody or possession and release or relinquish any right, title, claim, lien, interest, easement or  
20 demand however acquired, including treat of foreclosure.

21

22 Procure insurance against any loss in connection with its property and other assets in  
23 amounts and from insurers which it deems desirable.

24

25 Receive, on behalf of the State, bequests and donations that may be made to improve the  
26 general comfort and welfare of the members of the home or for the betterment of the home.

27

28 Borrow funds, make and issue bonds and negotiate notes and other evidences of  
29 indebtedness or obligations of the veterans' home for prudent and reasonable capital, operational  
30 and maintenance purposes. The home may secure payments of all or part of the obligations by  
31 pledge of part of the revenues or assets of the home that are available for pledge and that may be  
32 lawfully pledged or by mortgage of part, or all, of any property owned by the home. The home  
33 may do all lawful things necessary and incidental to those powers. The home may borrow  
34 money from the Federal Government and its agencies, from state agencies and from any other  
35 source.

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37 Do other acts necessary or convenient to exercise the powers granted or reasonably  
38 implied in this section.

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40 SECTION 3. The corporation shall appoint an administrator who shall be an honorably  
41 discharged veteran who shall administer the Home in accordance with the rules, guidelines and  
42 general policies established by the board. The administrator serves an indefinite term, but may  
43 be removed for cause by the board. The administrator's salary is set by the board. The  
44 administrator shall hire the necessary employees to operate the home and, whenever possible,  
45 give preference in hiring to war veterans. These employees shall not be employees of the  
46 Commonwealth.

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48 SECTION 4. Veterans desiring admission to the home shall apply on forms prescribed by the  
49 administrator. Admission shall be granted only to veterans who were residents of the  
50 Commonwealth at time of entry into the armed forces or at the time of application and to the  
51 spouses, widows or widowers of eligible veterans, provided that suitable facilities are available.

52 Parents of armed services members who are killed in action or die as a consequence of wounds  
53 received in battle are also eligible, as so called “Gold Star” parents, for admission. Admission  
54 must be granted when provisions of the rules governing private payment, Medicare and Medicaid  
55 eligibility to entitled persons are met. Each veteran admitted shall pay the home, as determined  
56 by the board, his share of his maintenance which he can afford.

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58 SECTION 5. All funds received by Home of the Brave, Inc., including federal Veterans’  
59 Administration stipend funds, must be held in a permanent fund to be used as required by the  
60 administrator for the support and maintenance of the Homes. A percentage of these funds  
61 approved by the board of trustees must be placed in reserve for capital improvement  
62 expenditures. Home of the Brave, Inc. shall operate the Homes, when constructed or purchased,  
63 as self-liquidating projects until all the bonds issued as provided by this chapter are retired. The  
64 Executive Office of Health and Human Services shall not modify its principles of reimbursement  
65 for long-term care facilities to specifically exclude reimbursement for the depreciation of the  
66 assets created with federal or state grants. The corporation shall retain as direct income revenue  
67 any stipend funds they may receive from the federal Veterans’ Administration for the Homes’  
68 entire eligible resident population. The Executive Office of Health and Human Services shall  
69 neither receive the proceeds nor require the application of stipend funds in the Medicare or  
70 Medicaid rate justification submissions by Home of the Brave, Inc.

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72 SECTION 6. The corporation shall make an annual report to the Governor on or before  
73 November 11. The report shall contain statistics of all veterans who resided in the Home during  
74 the year, recommendations to the Governor and General Court and such other matters as the  
75 corporation deems pertinent.

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77 SECTION 7. The corporation’s fiscal year shall be the same as the Commonwealth’s. The  
78 corporation may apply for and receive any grants-in-aid for which the Commonwealth or the  
79 corporation shall be eligible. The corporation shall adopt rules for the administration of the  
80 home. Every department and agency of the Commonwealth shall upon request furnish  
81 assistance, counsel and advice as the corporation shall require.