

# HOUSE . . . . . No. 6252

---

---

## *The Commonwealth of Massachusetts*

---

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, November 15, 1988.

The committee on Human Services and Elderly Affairs, to whom was referred the petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 3644) of Barbara Hildt, Carmen D. Buell and Kevin G. Honan relative to further defining the needs assessment conducted by the Department of Social Services, reports recommending that the accompanying bill (House, No. 6252) ought to pass.

For the committee,

BARBARA HILDT.

## The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

---

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

---

AN ACT FURTHER DEFINING THE ASSESSMENT OF NEEDS OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES RECEIVING SERVICES FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES.

*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 7 of Chapter 18B of the General Laws is hereby  
2 amended by inserting after subsection (k) of section 7 the follow-  
3 ing new subsection:

4 (1) The Comprehensive Needs Assessment

5 1. The Commissioner shall conduct every three years a com-  
6 prehensive area-based needs assessment. The needs assessment  
7 shall quantify unmet need in each area office with data which shall  
8 include, but not be limited to, the following:

9 a) people who have requested specific services but for whom  
10 there were none available;

11 b) current clients for whom a caseworker has recommended  
12 specific services which were then unavailable;

13 c) clients for whom recommended services became available  
14 only after a delay detrimental to the treatment of the family;

15 d) people who requested services through the area Help for  
16 Children office.

17 e) The needs assessment shall specify which services were  
18 unavailable in each of the above instances, and shall include those  
19 services which would be offered by another agency.

20 2. In conducting the needs assessment, the Commissioner shall  
21 survey caseworkers, providers and other key informants in the  
22 community.

23 3. The Commissioner shall develop a multi-year plan to meet  
24 the need identified in the needs assessment. Such plan shall detail  
25 priorities and costs associated with the implementation of the  
26 multi-year plan.

27 4. When filing the annual budget request of the department to  
28 the Secretary of Human Services the Commissioner shall seek an

29 appropriation sufficient to implement the goals for that year as  
30 described in the multi-year plan.

31 5. The Commissioner shall submit the Comprehensive Needs  
32 Assessment and Multi-year Plan as described in this section to  
33 the Legislature by September of 1991, and every three years  
34 thereafter.

35 6. An Advisory Committee shall be established to advise and  
36 assist the Commissioner in the development of the methods and  
37 protocols to be used in the preparation of the Comprehensive  
38 Needs Assessment, to oversee its implementation, review its  
39 findings and participate in the preparation of the Multi-year Plan.  
40 Said committee shall consist of seven members, appointed by the  
41 Secretary of Human Services to include: a provider of services  
42 to children, a member of a child advocacy organization, a  
43 caseworker who is a member of SEIU local 509, an academic  
44 specializing in human service needs assessment and survey  
45 methods, a member of the Office for Children Statewide Advisory  
46 Council, a State Representative and a State Senator.

47 7. At each area level there shall be an Area Advisory  
48 Committee established to oversee the implementation of the needs  
49 assessment and review its findings. Said Area Committee shall  
50 consist of a provider of services to children, a member of a child  
51 advocacy organization, a caseworker who is a member of SEIU  
52 local 509 and a member of the local Council for Children.

