

By Messrs. Bartley of Holyoke and Flaherty of Cambridge, petition of David M. Bartley, Charles F. Flaherty, Jr., and Kevin B. Harrington for an investigation by a special commission (including members of the General Court) relative to evaluating the adequacy of existing programs in the Commonwealth for the care and treatment of children. Social Welfare.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Seventy-Two.

RESOLVE PROVIDING FOR AN INVESTIGATION AND STUDY BY A SPECIAL COMMISSION TO EVALUATE THE ADEQUACY OF EXISTING PROGRAMS IN THE COMMONWEALTH FOR THE CARE AND TREATMENT OF CHILDREN.

1 *Resolved*, That a special commission, to consist of five
2 members of the Senate, nine members of the house of repre-
3 sentatives, and seven persons to be appointed by the governor,
4 one of whom shall be an expert in the field of child psychology,
5 one of whom shall be a guidance counselor, one of whom shall be
6 a teacher of special classes in the public schools, one of whom
7 shall be a justice of a juvenile court or a district court justice, one
8 of whom shall be a probation officer, and one of whom shall be a
9 social worker experienced in the field of child care, placement
10 and counselling, is hereby established for the purpose of making
11 an investigation and study to evaluate the adequacy of existing
12 programs in the commonwealth for the care and treatment of
13 children. In connection therewith said commission shall deter-
14 mine (1) the feasibility of establishing an executive office for
15 children's affairs, (2) the adequacy of the quality of services to
16 children provided by the division of child guardianship, foster
17 care and adoption programs, the department of youth services,
18 county training schools, and the present system of parole and
19 probation, (3) the adequacy and quality of services rendered to
20 children in institutions of the department of mental health or to
21 children serviced by said department, (4) the adequacy and
22 quality of special education of children serviced by the division
23 of special education of the department of education and the
24 public schools, and (5) any other problems relative to the care

25 and treatment of children which the commission deems necessary
26 to investigate and study. Said commission may require by
27 summons the attendance and testimony of witnesses and the
28 production of books and records, and the cooperation and
29 assistance of any department of the commonwealth to assist it in
30 its deliberations, including the use of expert personnel from any
31 such department for advice and consultation whenever it may be
32 deemed necessary.

33 Said commission may receive gifts and grants in aid and any
34 sums so received shall be credited on the books of the
35 commonwealth to a fund to be known as the children's welfare
36 fund and may be expended for the within stated purposes
37 without further appropriation. Said commission may report from
38 time to time. Its first interim report shall be filed with the clerk
39 of the house and the clerk of the Senate on or before the first
40 day of June, nineteen hundred and seventy-two.