

# SENATE . . . . No. 397

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To accompany the petition of Mario Umana that provision be made for the participation by the State in programs to cure and alleviate the effects of the disease of muscular dystrophy. Public Health.

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## The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Fifty-Three.

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### AN ACT TO PROVIDE FOR THE PARTICIPATION OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS IN PROGRAMS TO CURE AND ALLEVIATE THE EFFECTS OF THE DISEASE MUSCULAR DYSTROPHY.

1 *Whereas*, Muscular dystrophy is a disease which  
2 presents an urgent public health problem in this com-  
3 monwealth; and

4 *Whereas*, The discovery of the cause and cure of  
5 this disease would save the lives of many children and  
6 others in the commonwealth who suffer from it; and

7 *Whereas*, Programs of physical and mental therapy  
8 and rehabilitation can be made available to relieve  
9 the victims of this disease and prolong their lives and  
10 thus contribute to their well-being and those upon  
11 whom they are dependent; now therefore

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

1 That the departments of public welfare and of public  
2 health of this commonwealth are authorized and di-

3 reected to institute, develop, support and carry out  
4 programs designed —

5 (a) To foster medical research to discover the cause  
6 and find a cure for the disease muscular dystrophy.

7 (b) To make available and employ facilities to pro-  
8 vide means by which sufferers from this disease may  
9 become productive members of society instead of de-  
10 pendants upon their relatives or their community; and

11 (c) To co-operate with other agencies and institu-  
12 tions, federal, local and private, in the attainments of  
13 the objectives hereof.