

By Mrs. Gray of Framingham, petition of Barbara E. Gray relative to establishing regional teams of specialists to promote cooperation between state agencies in foster care placements. Human Services and Elderly Affairs.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

AN ACT TO ESTABLISH REGIONAL TEAMS TO PROMOTE COOPERATION BETWEEN STATE AGENCIES IN FOSTER CARE PLACEMENTS.

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 18, Section 5 of the General Laws is amended by
2 inserting at the end of the second paragraph, the following:

3 The commissioner shall establish within each of the regions a
4 team of specialists, with one representative from each of the
5 following departments: Department of Public Welfare, Depart-
6 ment of Mental Health, Department of Youth Services, Office for
7 Children, to serve on a full time basis as consultants, advisors,
8 and co-ordinators of all foster care services within that region.
9 The primary purpose of this team shall be to promote
10 cooperation among these departments in enabling families to
11 avoid foster care placement and when such placement does
12 become necessary, helping make this as short and as beneficial to
13 both the child and the family as possible. The responsibilities of
14 such a team shall include:

15 1. Encourage and help implement new programs of joint
16 cooperation in local communities, using the expertise, personnel,
17 and facilities of all four departments to provide an integrated and
18 complete program of foster care and supporting services to
19 children in need of foster care, their legal families and foster
20 families.

21 2. Organize and maintain a regional resource center with the
22 names and pertinent information on all children who are in foster
23 homes, their legal families, foster families, specialized foster

24 homes, and all agencies, public and private, who are involved in
25 foster care.

26 3. Provide expertise and consultant services for all local foster
27 care agencies to help them in running training programs for foster
28 parents and social workers.