

By Mr. Lopes of New Bedford, petition of Thomas D. Lopes that the secretaries of the various executive offices be required to file program evaluation plans. State Administration.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

AN ACT REQUIRING THE SECRETARIES TO FILE PROGRAM EVALUATION PLANS.

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 6A of the General Laws is hereby amended by
2 inserting after section 4 the following new section: —

3 4 (a) Program evaluation, as used in this section, shall refer to
4 those activities which seek to determine, with respect to any
5 particular agency, division, bureau, program, or program
6 element, whether and to what extent such agency, division,
7 bureau, program or program element is

8 (1) Meeting its objectives; (2) Significantly impacting the total
9 universe of need; and

10 (3) Operating efficiently with respect to cost.

11 Such activities shall also consist of determining what action, if
12 taken, would cause a particular agency, division, bureau,
13 program or program element, to more nearly meet the criteria set
14 forth in (1) — (3) above.

15 (b) Commencing with fiscal year 1978, it shall be the
16 responsibility of each Secretary to establish and implement a
17 program evaluation plan for his Secretariat. Such plan shall be
18 prepared annually and shall be submitted as part of the proposed
19 budget for that Secretariat for the fiscal year commencing the
20 next following July 1. Such plan shall set forth, with respect to
21 the fiscal year commencing the next following July 1, what
22 questions will be addressed with respect to what agencies,
23 divisions, bureaus, programs, or program elements, by what

24 means the answers will be sought and what the significance of
25 such answers will be. It shall be the responsibility of the Secretary
26 to implement the program evaluation plan for his Secretariat as it
27 appears in the general budget enacted by the House of
28 Representatives and the Senate and signed by the Governor.

29 (c) The Secretary of Administration and Finance shall be
30 responsible for coordinating program evaluation for the
31 Commonwealth. This responsibility shall include, but not be
32 limited to,

33 (1) Approving the evaluation plans of the various Secretariats
34 described in Subsection (b);

35 (2) Preparing an annual evaluation plan for the Com-
36 monwealth, such plan to include a summary of the approved
37 plans of the various Secretariats and a description of an overall
38 strategy and, further, with respect to those activities authorized
39 by sub-paragraph (3), to set forth what questions will be
40 addressed with respect to what agencies, divisions, bureaus,
41 programs, or program elements, by what means the answers will
42 be sought and what the significance of such answers will be;

43 (3) Conducting program evaluations which address questions
44 extending across program and Secretariat jurisdictional lines; and

45 (4) Providing technical assistance to the various Secretaries
46 with respect to the establishment and implementation of their
47 respective program evaluation plans.

48 (d) The results of each program evaluation undertaken
49 pursuant to this section shall be made available to the public
50 within a reasonable time after its completion.