

By Mr. Wetherbee of Pepperell, petition of Bruce E. Wetherbee 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-Nine.

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 inserting
2 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 element,
6 whether and to what extent such agency, division, bureau,
7 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, program
13 or program element, to more nearly meet the criteria set forth in (1)
14 — (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 next
20 following July 1. Such plan shall set forth, with respect to the fiscal
21 year commencing the next following July 1, what questions will be
22 addressed with respect to what agencies, divisions, bureaus,
23 programs, or program elements, by what means the answers will be
24 sought and what the significance of such answers will be. It shall be

25 the responsibility of the Secretary to implement the program
26 evaluation plan for his Secretariat as it appears in the general
27 budget enacted by the House of Representatives and the Senate
28 and signed by the Governor.

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

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

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

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

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

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