

SENATE No. 667

By Mr. King, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 667) of John G. King, Edward L. Burke, Mark E. Lawton and other members of the General Court for legislation to define the role of psychologist in commitment and competency proceedings. Human Services and Elderly Affairs.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Eighty.

**AN ACT DEFINING THE ROLE OF PSYCHOLOGISTS IN COMMITMENT
AND COMPETENCY PROCEEDINGS.**

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

1 SECTION 1. Section 1 of chapter 123 of the General Laws,
2 as most recently amended by section 55 of chapter 367 of the
3 acts of 1978, is hereby further amended by inserting after the
4 paragraph defining "Qualified physician" the following para-
5 graph: —

6 "Qualified psychologist", a psychologist who is licensed pur-
7 suant to sections one hundred and eighteen through one hun-
8 dred and twenty-nine of chapter one hundred and twelve who
9 is designated by and who meets qualifications required by the
10 regulations of the department, provided that different quali-
11 cations may be established for different purposes of this chap-
12 ter. A qualified psychologist need not be an employee of the
13 department or of any facility of the department.

1 SECTION 2. Said section 15 is hereby further amended in
2 paragraph (b) by adding the words "or in the case of Bridge-
3 water state hospital an examining qualified physician or an
4 examining qualified psychologist" after the word "physician"
5 in the third sentence; and in paragraph (c) by adding the
6 words "or in the case of Bridgewater state hospital the ex-
7 amining qualified physician or physicians or the examining
8 qualified psychologist or psychologists" after the word "physi-
9 cians" in the first sentence.

1 SECTION 3. Section 18 of chapter 123 of the General Laws,
2 as most recently amended by chapter 569 of the Acts of 1973,
3 is hereby further amended in paragraph (a) by adding the
4 words "or in the case of Bridgewater state hospital signed by
5 the qualified physician or physicians conducting such exami-
6 nation or signed by the qualified psychologist or psychologists
7 conducting such examination" after the word "physicians" in
8 the sixth sentence.

1 SECTION 4. Section 22 of chapter 123 of the General Laws
2 is hereby amended by adding the words "qualified psycholo-
3 gists" after the word "physicians" and adding the words
4 "qualified psychologist" after the word "physician" respec-
5 tively, in the first sentence.