
By Mr. Backman, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 431) of Jack H. Backman, Steve Worth and Norman S. Weinberg for legislation to establish a statewide program of research, public information and individual screening and diagnosis to promote child health. Health Care.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

AN ACT ESTABLISHING A STATEWIDE PROGRAM OF RESEARCH, PUBLIC INFORMATION AND INDIVIDUAL SCREENING AND DIAGNOSIS TO PROMOTE CHILD HEALTH.

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 111 of the General Laws is hereby amended by in-
2 serting after section 4I the following section:

3 *Section 4J:* The department shall establish a Statewide Pro-
4 gram to promote the health of children through the early
5 identification of preventable health hazards and the early de-
6 tection of handicapping conditions. Toward said end, the de-
7 partment may conduct research and shall provide public in-
8 formation on the following issues as they pertain to potential
9 parents and children: environmental health, including but not
10 limited to, chemical substances, mechanical devices, and dis-
11 eases particularly hazardous to potential parents or children;
12 nutritional health issues pertinent to potential parents and
13 children; genetic health; birth control and fertility. The de-
14 partment shall also provide, on a statewide basis, screening
15 programs for identification of potentially hazardous health con-
16 ditions affecting children and the reproductive capacity of po-
17 tential parents, and for the early detection of developmental
18 health problems in children.

19 The department shall make individual diagnosis and referral
20 for treatment in any of the areas mentioned in the paragraph
21 above available to any child whose parent requests such diag-
22 nosis, and to any potential parent who requests such diagnosis

23 providing he can legally give consent to medical care. Other-
24 wise such diagnosis shall be made available to a potential par-
25 ent if his parent or legal guardian, with his approval, requests
26 such diagnosis.

27 The department shall provide payment for the cost of said
28 screening and/or individual diagnosis on a sliding scale basis
29 in accordance with the ability of the recipient of said screening
30 or diagnosis to pay for said service, except in any instance in
31 which the department, under other provisions of law, is re-
32 quired to bear the full cost of said screening or diagnostic
33 service; provided, however, that nothing in this section shall
34 supersede or preclude any payment for said service available
35 under chapter one hundred and eighteen E or any other third
36 party payment source.

37 The department may enter into contract to implement the
38 provisions of this section and may promulgate such rules and
39 regulations as are necessary. It shall, whenever feasible, co-
40 ordinate and utilize existing health resources to implement the
41 provisions of this section, but nothing in this section shall be
42 construed so as to confer control by the department over pro-
43 grams administered by the department of public welfare or any
44 other agency.

45 The division of the department which has primary responsi-
46 bility for the delivery of family health services shall have
47 primary responsibility for the implementation of the provisions
48 of this section.

49 For the purposes of this section the word "child" shall mean
50 any person under six years of age.