
By Mr. Saltonstall, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 533) of William L. Saltonstall and other members of the General Court for legislation relative to community service area boards within the Department of Public Welfare. Human Services and Elderly Affairs.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

AN ACT RELATIVE TO COMMUNITY SERVICE AREA BOARDS WITHIN THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WELFARE.

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 seven of chapter eighteen of the General
2 Laws is hereby amended by striking out the first paragraph
3 and inserting in place thereof the following paragraph: —
4 There shall be established for each community service area
5 a community service area board, hereinafter called the board,
6 the members of which shall be appointed for three year terms
7 by the commissioner, subject to the approval of the governor,
8 seven of whom may be appointed from a list of nominees pro-
9 vided by the state advisory council of citizens within the
10 community service area who are concerned about the impact
11 of the cost of welfare programs on the financial condition of
12 the Commonwealth, and who shall not be recipients of assis-
13 tance; two of whom shall be recipients of assistance under
14 chapter one hundred and eighteen; two of whom shall be re-
15 cipients of assistance on account of age under chapter one
16 hundred and eighteen A; two of whom shall be recipients of
17 assistance on account of disability under said chapter one hun-
18 dred and eighteen A; and one of whom shall be a recipient of
19 assistance under chapter one hundred and eighteen E. Each
20 board shall consist of not less than fifteen nor more than thirty
21 members. The state advisory council shall draw up guidelines
22 to insure a balance in board membership between recipients
23 or representatives thereof and non-recipients concerned about
24 the impact of the cost of welfare programs on the financial

25 condition of the Commonwealth. When first appointed, one
26 third of the members shall be appointed for three years, one
27 third for two years, and one third for one year. Thereafter
28 new appointments shall be made by the commissioner from a
29 list of nominees, prepared by the council, or persons with qual-
30 ifications that will maintain the distribution of interest broad-
31 ly representative of the various segments of the population in
32 the area served. When nominations are to be made under this
33 section, the council shall provide twice as many names as
34 there are vacancies to be filled. Any vacancy shall be filled for
35 the remainder of the unexpired term. No member shall serve
36 more than two consecutive three year terms.

1 SECTION 2. The third paragraph of said section is hereby
2 amended by adding after clause (6) the following: —

3 (7) Monitor and review the services and contracts for serv-
4 ices provided to recipients in the community service area by
5 independent agencies and health care providers and make rec-
6 ommendations to the department for action to improve these
7 services. The department shall, within reason, provide assist-
8 ance to the boards in any review of provider services. The
9 department shall report to the board on action taken in re-
10 sponse to said recommendations or the reasons why the rec-
11 ommendations cannot be implemented.

12 (8) Receive individual complaints regarding vendor or re-
13 cipient fraud or waste, subject to state and federal statutes on
14 privacy, and to guidelines drawn up by the council, and for-
15 ward them to the appropriate agency together with recom-
16 mendations, if any, for appropriate action. The local offices
17 shall provide to the boards, upon request, reports on all such
18 complaints received by said offices and the action taken
19 thereon.

20 (9) Review the operation of the department in the com-
21 munity service area to see if pertinent statutes, appropriations,
22 operating procedures or regulations provide for efficiency in
23 operation and are appropriate in balancing the need for serv-
24 ices and the cost thereof and make recommendations to the
25 appropriate body for any changes deemed necessary.