

By Mr. Backman, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 740) of Jack H. Backman, A. Joseph DeNucci, Sharon M. Pollard and other members of the General Court for legislation to increase interdepartmental case cooperation in the provision of children's services. Human Services and Elderly Affairs.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Eighty-three.

AN ACT TO INCREASE INTERDEPARTMENTAL CASE COOPERATION IN CHILDREN'S SERVICES.

*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 28A of the General Laws is hereby amended by  
2 adding after section 6 the following section: —

3 "6A. Interdepartmental Teams; establishment; regulations;  
4 members and functions."

5 The office shall establish, coordinate and chair a statewide  
6 interdepartmental team and interdepartmental teams within  
7 regions determined by the office, provided that such regions  
8 are consistent with substate regions as approved by the sec-  
9 retary of administration. The purposes of the interdepart-  
10 mental team shall be to provide an appeal within the admin-  
11 istrative system to the highest level within the commonwealth  
12 and to ensure each child a process for access to services when  
13 those services are required to be provided pursuant to law and  
14 in those cases where services have been identified as neces-  
15 sary but are inadequate, non-existent or denied

16 The office shall, pursuant to chapter thirty A and subject  
17 to the approval of the statewide advisory council, promulgate  
18 rules and regulations to carry out the purposes and functions  
19 of the interdepartmental teams; provided, that membership  
20 of each team shall consist of the commissioners or their desig-  
21 nees of the departments of education, mental health, social  
22 services, public welfare, youth services, public health and the  
23 Massachusetts rehabilitation commission or their successor  
24 agencies. Other agencies shall be required to participate with

25 respect to individual cases at the discretion of the director.  
26 All regulations so promulgated shall be reviewed and reprom-  
27 ulgated in June of every odd numbered year.

28 In accordance with such regulations, the interdepartmental  
29 teams shall perform the following functions: —

30 (a) review service requests for each individual child re-  
31 ferred by an area Help for Children program where no serv-  
32 ice or inadequate service has been identified;

33 (b) identifying the individual service needs of each child;  
34 review existing agency(ies)' individual service plan (ISP) for  
35 each child; and as necessary, require professional personnel  
36 to appear before the interdepartmental team to present diag-  
37 nostic, evaluative, and case history materials deemed relevant  
38 to the resolution of the service request;

39 (c) designate an agency to develop a case management  
40 plan based on interdepartmental team recommendations;

41 (d) review and approve each case management plan; and

42 (e) designate a single state agency to provide comprehen-  
43 sive case management and monitoring of service delivery for  
44 each case as stated in the case management plan.

45 Except as otherwise specifically prohibited by statute all  
46 case records and relevant data shall be made available to the  
47 interdepartmental teams by the relevant commissioner upon  
48 the request of the director of the office for children.

49 In those cases where the commonwealth is clearly responsi-  
50 ble for services but no consensus can be reached by the inter-  
51 departmental team, then the director shall be authorized to  
52 require agencies represented on the interdepartmental team  
53 to provide the necessary and appropriate services recom-  
54 mended by the team within the context of regulations promul-  
55 gated pursuant to this section.

56 The director shall be required to submit, at a public hear-  
57 ing, a detailed annual report concerning the operations of the  
58 interdepartmental teams to the statewide advisory council and  
59 the commissioners of the participating agencies.