

By Mr. Bolling, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 526) of Royal L. Bolling, Sr., William B. Golden, Frederick E. Berry and Michael J. Barrett for legislation to prohibit placement of children on adult wards of mental institutions. Human Services and Elderly Affairs.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

AN ACT TO PROHIBIT PLACEMENT OF CHILDREN ON ADULT WARDS OF MENTAL INSTITUTIONS.

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 123 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 1984
2 Official Edition, is hereby amended by inserting the following new
3 section: —

4 Section 39. No individual under the age of twenty-two with
5 special needs shall be confined or allowed to reside in any state
6 mental hospital or inpatient unit of a state-funded mental health
7 clinic under the direction and control of the department unless
8 such individual is housed within a separate unit with individuals
9 of the same age grouping. Such separate units shall provide
10 appropriate living arrangements, staffing, mental health services
11 and other programs in accordance with the individual service and
12 education plans of the residents.

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