

By Mr. LoPresti, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 578) of Michael LoPresti, Jr., for legislation to authorize qualified licensed psychologists to perform certain evaluations. Human Services and Elderly Affairs.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

AN ACT AUTHORIZING QUALIFIED LICENSED PSYCHOLOGISTS TO PERFORM CERTAIN EVALUATIONS.

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 12 of chapter 123 of the General Laws, as appearing
2 in the 1986 Official Edition is hereby amended by striking out
3 paragraph (e) and inserting in place thereof the following
4 paragraph:

5 (e) Any person may make application to a district court justice
6 for a ten day commitment to a facility of a mentally ill person
7 whom the failure to confine would cause a likelihood of serious
8 harm. After hearing such evidence as he may consider sufficient,
9 a district court justice may issue a warrant for the apprehension
10 and appearance before him of the alleged mentally ill person, if
11 in his judgment the condition or conduct of such person makes
12 such action necessary or proper. Following apprehension, the
13 court shall have the person examined by a physician designated
14 to have the authority to admit to a facility or examined by a
15 qualified psychologist in accordance with the regulations of the
16 department. If said physician or qualified psychologist reports
17 that the failure to hospitalize the person would create a likelihood
18 of serious harm by reason of mental illness, the court may order
19 the person committed to a facility for a period not to exceed ten
20 days, but the superintendent may discharge him at any time within
21 the ten day period.

