

SENATE No. 1586

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

SENATE, March 29, 1988.

The committee on Human Services and Elderly Affairs, to whom was referred the petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 1136) of Marjorie A. Clapprod and other members of the General Court relative to the care and treatment of certain indigent persons; and the petition (accompanied by resolve, House, No. 3117) of William J. Flynn, Jr., that the Executive Secretary of Human Services be directed to establish a task force to study and consider welfare dependence and to propose policies to alleviate such dependence by developing programs of vocational education and job placement, report the accompanying bill (Senate, No. 1586).

For the committee,

JOHN PATRICK HOUSTON.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

AN ACT TO PROMOTE FAMILY DEVELOPMENT.

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 16 of chapter 6A of the General Laws
2 amended by striking the words, "department of public welfare",
3 and inserting in place thereof the words, "department of family
4 development".

1 SECTION 2. Chapter 18 of the General Laws is hereby
2 amended by deleting section 1 and inserting in place thereof the
3 following:

4 Section 1. There shall be a department of family development,
5 in this chapter called the department.

1 SECTION 3. Section 2 of chapter 18 of the General Laws is
2 hereby amended by deleting the first paragraph and inserting in
3 place thereof the following: —

4 (A) The department shall provide and administer throughout
5 the commonwealth a comprehensive family development
6 program, including the following services: the provision of
7 financial assistance to those in economic need and the
8 determination of eligibility for the categorical public assistance
9 provided under the Federal-State programs; financial assistance
10 for care and rehabilitation of the aging; financial assistance for
11 health services and medical care; assistance to families in
12 promoting economic independence through employment and
13 training, child care, child support, housing assistance and other
14 supportive services; assistance to families with children in securing
15 opportunities for adequate early childhood development; the
16 development of programs to ensure equitable treatment of low-
17 income families who are not receiving public assistance with
18 regard to employment and training, child care, housing assistance

19 and other supportive services; and other forms of financial
20 assistance to families and individuals as needed.

1 SECTION 4. Section 3 of chapter 18 of the General Laws is
2 amended by deleting the first sentence and inserting in place
3 thereof the following: —

4 The department shall be under the direction, supervision and
5 control of a commissioner of family development, in this chapter
6 called the commissioner.

1 SECTION 5. Chapter 18 of the General Laws is hereby further
2 amended by inserting after section 3 the following section: —

3 Section 3A. There shall be a family development planning
4 council to consist of the commissioner, the secretary of human
5 services, the secretary of communities and development, the
6 secretary of labor, the secretary of economic affairs, the
7 commissioner of education, the commissioner of social services,
8 the commissioner of veterans' services, and the director of the
9 office for children, which shall convene to plan for coordination
10 among the various departments of government of programs to
11 implement the policy of the commonwealth that working parents
12 with inadequate income to properly support their children should
13 receive assistance in developing greater economic independence
14 and opportunity without regard to their eligibility for categorical
15 financial assistance programs. On or before the first day of
16 November in each fiscal year, the commissioner shall submit an
17 annual report of the family development planning council to the
18 governor and the general court which shall: (1) assess the
19 economic and social circumstances contributing to poverty and
20 inadequate income among employed persons; (2) analyze the
21 needs of low income workers and their families for assistance with
22 regard to opportunities for employment and training, child care,
23 early childhood development, and housing assistance; (3) identify
24 barriers in existing laws and policies which prevent the
25 commonwealth from meeting such needs; and (4) set forth plans
26 and programs of the commonwealth designed to meet such needs
27 and eliminate such barriers.

1 SECTION 6. Section 1 of chapter 117 of the General Laws is
2 hereby amended by striking the first sentence and inserting in
3 place thereof the following: —

4 The commonwealth, acting by and through the department of
5 family development, shall provide assistance to residents of the
6 commonwealth found by the department to be eligible for such
7 assistance in accordance with this chapter.

1 SECTION 7. Section 1 of chapter 118 of the General Laws is
2 hereby amended by striking the last sentence and inserting in place
3 thereof the following: —

4 “Department”, the department of family development.

1 SECTION 8. Section 1 of chapter 118A of the General Laws
2 is hereby amended by striking the first sentence and inserting in
3 place thereof the following: —

4 The department of family development, in this chapter called
5 the department, shall administer a program of financial assistance
6 for aged and disabled persons who reside within the
7 commonwealth.

1 SECTION 9. Section 2 of chapter 118E of the General Laws
2 is amended by striking sub-section (b) and inserting in place
3 thereof the following: —

4 “Department”, the department of family development.

1 SECTION 10. Section 1 of chapter 119A of the General Laws
2 is hereby amended by striking the words, “commissioner of public
3 welfare”, and inserting in place thereof the words, “commissioner
4 of family development”.