

[Similar Matter Filed During Past Session —

See Senate No. 456 of 1988.]

SENATE No. 557

By Mr. Wetmore, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 557) of Robert D. Wetmore for legislation to further define the rights of cancer patients. Health Care.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

AN ACT FURTHER DEFINING THE RIGHTS OF CANCER PATIENTS.

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 70E of chapter 111 of the General Laws, as most
2 recently amended by chapter 720 of the acts of 1979 is hereby
3 further amended by striking out, in the sixth paragraph of said
4 section, clause (h) and inserting in place thereof the following new
5 clause: —

6 (h) In the case of any patient suffering from cancer of any form,
7 to complete information on all forms of recommended and
8 alternative treatments, the potential adverse side effects of such
9 treatments and the potential costs of such treatments. Said
10 information shall be in written form employing layman's language
11 insofar as practicable and shall include notice that the patient
12 should consider a second opinion regarding diagnosis and
13 treatment.

14 The patient shall be provided written notification delineating
15 those groups and associations within the Commonwealth which
16 may provide information and assistance regarding the patient's
17 illness.

