

By Mr. Lewis, a petition (accompanied by resolve, Senate, No. 672) of Arthur Joseph Lewis, Jr., that provision be made for an investigation and study by a special commission (including members of the General Court) relative to providing alternative methods of treatment for certain mentally ill persons. Human Services and Elderly Affairs.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

RESOLVE PROVIDING FOR AN INVESTIGATION AND STUDY BY A SPECIAL COMMISSION RELATIVE TO PROVIDING ALTERNATIVE METHODS OF TREATMENT FOR CERTAIN MENTALLY ILL PERSONS.

1 *Resolved*, That a special commission to consist of three
2 members of the senate, five members of the house of
3 representatives, the Commissioner of the Department of Mental
4 Health or his or her designee, and two psychiatrists licensed to
5 practice in the Commonwealth to be appointed by the governor
6 is hereby established for the purpose of making an investigation
7 and study of alternative methods of treatment for certain mental
8 health centers.

9 Said commission shall consider the current treatment of persons
10 who require occasional, short term, acute, full time psychiatric
11 care for periods of twenty days or less, and shall recommend
12 methods of treating such persons in places other than state mental
13 health hospitals or similar institutions.

14 Said commission shall also consider current practices
15 (governing) the use to electro convulsive treatment, psycho-
16 surgery, and experimental medical research on persons under
17 twenty-one and possible alternative to these practices, and shall
18 consider, if necessary, any changes in statute or regulation
19 governing, such practices.

20 Said commission shall consider the adequacy and scope of
21 community mental health centers and shall include in its
22 investigation the various techniques utilized by nonmedical

23 personnel employed by said mental health center in treating the
24 mentally ill, the means of financing such techniques, and the
25 availability of alternative means of treating such patients in said
26 mental health centers.

27 Said commission shall report to the general court, the results
28 of its investigation and study, and its recommendations, if any,
29 together with drafts of legislation necessary to carry such
30 recommendation into effect, by filing the same with the clerk of
31 the senate on or before the first Wednesday of October, nineteen
32 hundred and eighty-nine.