

By Mr. Thompson of Cambridge, petition of Alvin E. Thompson, Joseph K. Mackey, Byron Rushing, Peter A. Vellucci, Nelson Merced and Shirley Owens-Hicks that the Department of Social Services be directed to establish a program for gay and lesbian services. Human Services and Elderly Affairs.

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Ninety.

AN ACT RELATIVE TO GAY AND LESBIAN SERVICES.

*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 18B of the General Laws is hereby amended by  
2 inserting after section 22 the following four sections:

3 Section 23. The Department of Social Services within the  
4 Executive Office of Human Services shall establish a program to  
5 provide gay and lesbian services.

6 Section 24. The commissioner shall have all necessary  
7 authority to utilize existing staff in the department to effect the  
8 purposes of sections twenty-three to twenty-six, inclusive, and  
9 shall have the authority to seek such funds, public or private, as  
10 may be available and needed to carry out the intent of said  
11 sections.

12 Section 25. Said program shall have a director and such other  
13 specialists in gay and lesbian matters as may from time to time  
14 be authorized. The program may either by its own staff or by  
15 contract with community groups, private companies or public or  
16 non-profit agencies have available liaison officers and other  
17 persons knowledgeable in gay and lesbian matters.

18 Section 26. Said program shall include, but not be limited to,  
19 the following services:

- 20 (1) casework or counselling including social services  
21 (2) protective services

- 22 (3) legal services
- 23 (4) informal education and group services as needed
- 24 (5) assistance in employment and housing opportunities
- 25 (6) anti-discrimination assistance
- 26 (7) information and referral services.