

HOUSE No. 4592

By Mrs. Parente of Milford, petition of Marie J. Parente and another relative to establishing a demonstration project in psychiatric rehabilitation. Human Services and Elderly Affairs.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Ninety.

AN ACT ESTABLISHING A DEMONSTRATION PROJECT IN PSYCHIATRIC REHABILITATION.

1 *Whereas*, The Department of Mental Health in Massachusetts
2 currently provides housing for mentally ill persons who are in need
3 of support but are capable of some measure of self-sufficiency;
4 and

5 *Whereas*, The Fountain House, a non-profit organization in
6 New York City, has developed a comprehensive community-based
7 program of psychiatric rehabilitation since its founding in 1948;
8 and

9 *Whereas*, The Fountain House has been successful in reducing
10 the rehospitalization time of its patients, and the Fountain House
11 model has been adopted by one hundred and eighty rehabilitation
12 programs in the United States;

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 24 of Chapter 19 as most recently amended by Section
2 12 of Chapter 23 of the Acts of 1984, is hereby further amended
3 by inserting after the third paragraph the following paragraph: —

4 The Department shall authorize six pilot community support
5 and rehabilitation projects. Said programs shall be implemented
6 in each of the six Departmental regions. These programs shall be
7 known as Fountain House model projects and shall be funded by
8 the Department of Mental Health.

9 Said projects shall offer their outpatients some or all of the
10 following opportunities:

11 A transitional employment program; pre-vocational day
12 services, housing assistance including the development of an
13 apartment program for those members who cannot get adequate
14 housing of their own;

15 An outreach program for members who prematurely terminate
16 and re-hospitalized patients;

17 An opportunity for mentally ill outpatients to work side by side
18 with mental health professionals;

19 And an evening and weekend social-recreational program.

20 Said projects shall adopt the principles of the "Community
21 Support Clubhouse Model" developed by Fountain House,
22 namely;

23 That all men and women, including the Chronically Mentally
24 Ill, require opportunities to live independently, to contribute and
25 feel useful, to gather socially and to raise their level of personal
26 participation in the community at large;

27 That the most severely disabled psychiatric patient is capable
28 of productive activity;

29 That work and the opportunity to aspire to independent
30 employment is a central ingredient in the development of this
31 personal productivity;

32 That the opportunity to "succeed" or to "fail" is necessary for
33 the recovery and growth of outpatients and that the place which
34 provides these opportunities for growth also provides long-term
35 support so that the person will not be abandoned.

36 The Executive Director of each awardee and staff/employees
37 assigned to critical positions shall be trained at the Van Amerigen
38 Center of the New York Fountain House program for advice and
39 training in the development of these demonstration projects.

40 Each of the six pilot projects shall be non-profit corporations
41 governed by separate boards initially appointed by the
42 Department's regional citizen advisory boards. Each board shall
43 be composed of at least fifteen members appointed for one year
44 terms. Each board shall adopt appropriate bylaws and articles of
45 organization, wherein the voting membership of each corporation
46 shall consist of their respective governing boards.

47 Each governing board initially appointed and thereafter elected
48 shall consist of at least six family members of the mentally ill, two
49 mental health consumers, and seven other members from
50 professions useful to the governance of the programs, including
51 but not limited to law, accounting, psychiatry, philanthropy,
52 banking, and business. Further, board members shall reside in the
53 region served by their respective programs, as described above.

