

By Ms. Buell of Greenfield, petition of Carmen D. Buell and other members of the House relative to establishing a child care partnership. Human Services and Elderly Affairs.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Ninety.

AN ACT ESTABLISHING A CHILD CARE PARTNERSHIP.

PREAMBLE.

1 At least a dozen state agencies are involved in regulating,
2 purchasing, stimulating or developing policies for child care.
3 Child care is an issue which cuts across five secretariats (EOHS,
4 EOCD, EOEI, EOAF, EOL) and is an important agenda item
5 for a number of agencies including DSS, DPW, OFC, DOE,
6 DPH, DCPO, OER as well as the Board of Regents. Without one
7 coordinating body, conflicting priorities, as well as lack of
8 direction, will be an ongoing serious problem. At the same time
9 the child care system is and will continue to be supported by a
10 variety of funding streams including several state agencies, several
11 existing and new federal sources, local government, private
12 employers, foundations and charities and parents. Given the
13 growing demand for affordable, quality child care, there is an
14 obvious need for coordination of child care policy and resources.
15 The Governor's Office is the appropriate place to ensure this
16 coordination.

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 6 of the General Laws is hereby amended by adding
2 the following sections: —

3 Section 204. There is hereby established a child care
4 partnership advisory board, hereinafter referred to as the board,
5 which shall be comprised of no more than 40 members with a
6 demonstrated interest in child care appointed by the governor,

7 including but not limited to the following: child care providers,
8 representing family, group, systems, preschool, school age, and
9 infant toddler daycare programs; representatives of child care
10 resource and referral agencies; child care experts and advocates;
11 public and private school educators; parents; local government;
12 members of the legislature; labor and business leaders;
13 representatives of philanthropic organizations; and representa-
14 tives of other child care advisory boards. In making such
15 appointments the governor shall seek to provide diverse
16 geographical representation and shall assure that the Common-
17 wealth's racial and ethnic composition is reflected in the
18 appointments.

19 Each member of the board shall serve for a period of five years,
20 provided that of the initial appointees one-third shall serve for
21 a term of three years, one third for four years, and one third for
22 five years. A vacancy in an unexpired term shall be filled in the
23 same manner as an original appointment. Any member shall be
24 eligible for reappointment. Any member of the board may be
25 removed by the governor for willful misconduct or neglect of duty,
26 for inability to perform the powers and duties of the board, or
27 for improprieties under law.

28 The governor shall designate a chairman from among one of
29 the appointed members of the board. The board may elect other
30 officers and committees as it deems appropriate.

31 The board shall meet at least four times annually and shall have
32 the following duties:

33 (1) to review and advise the governor on the annual child care
34 plan prepared by the inter-agency child care council;

35 (2) to review and advise the governor on the annual child care
36 budget prepared by the inter-agency child care council;

37 (3) to review current policies and advise the inter-agency child
38 care council and the governor on all proposed policies, initiatives
39 or regulations and legislation, related to child care.

40 Section 205. There is hereby established an inter-agency child
41 care council hereinafter referred to as the council. The council
42 shall consist of the following persons or their designees: The
43 secretary of human services, the secretary of administration and
44 finance; the secretary of communities and development, the
45 secretary of labor, the secretary of economic affairs, the chancellor
46 of the board of regents of higher education, the commissioner of

47 social services, the commissioner of the office for children, the
48 commissioner of public welfare, and the commissioner of
49 education.

50 The council shall annually develop a child care plan which shall
51 include a review of existing child care services, proposals for
52 improving child care services for increasing inter-agency
53 cooperation for the implementation of the plan. The council shall
54 annually develop a child care budget for submission to the
55 governor and the child care advisory board which shall include
56 a review of all relevant sources of revenues and expenditures for
57 child care by the Commonwealth. The council shall oversee the
58 implementation of all child care services and activities, shall
59 oversee the coordination of all child care activities, shall ensure
60 that agencies meet the goals and objectives outlined in the annual
61 child care plan, and shall review all agency state plans and grant
62 applications related to child care.

63 The governor shall appoint an executive director and such other
64 staff as may be necessary to the council who shall also serve as
65 a representative to the child care advisory board. The executive
66 director shall report directly to the Governor and shall coordinate
67 the activities of the board and the council.

