

By Mr. Kitterman of Pittsfield, petition of William Kitterman and another for legislation to establish a program of group home placements within the Division of Youth Service. Public Welfare.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Sixty-Seven.

AN ACT ESTABLISHING A PROGRAM OF GROUP HOME PLACEMENTS
UNDER THE DIVISION OF YOUTH SERVICE.

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 120 of the General Laws is hereby amended by in-
2 serting after section 11D the following two sections:—

3 *Section 11E.* There shall be established within the division
4 of youth service a program of group homes in twelve suitable
5 areas of the state, especially those communities with a high
6 delinquency rate or where greatest need for such residence
7 homes exists.

8 Said group homes shall have a maximum capacity of ten
9 and may be established by the division by contract arrange-
10 ments with individuals or organizations or may be operated by
11 the division itself as need may be. In the latter event, clerical
12 and maintenance employees shall be employed under the pro-
13 visions of chapter thirty-one, but all professional and semi-
14 professional personnel shall be chosen on the basis of personal
15 and professional qualifications determined by the appointing
16 authority; and provided further, that such employees shall be
17 placed in appropriate grades in the regular salary schedule but
18 shall be exempt from the provisions of chapter thirty-one.

19 For the purpose of this chapter, including planning, leasing,
20 renovating, employing, and operating, the sum of one million
21 dollars is hereby appropriated.

22 *Section 11F.* The group homes in the preceding section shall
23 be used for the residence of boys or girls committed to the youth

24 service board, as the board shall determine in accordance with
25 law. They shall, however, be especially used for boys or girls
26 who reside within the community or in close proximity to it,
27 but who, for reasons as determined by the youth service board
28 after study as provided by law, can best be rehabilitated by
29 residence outside the home itself, but who should be allowed to
30 continue otherwise normal family relationships through visits
31 and similar continued association.

32 They shall also be used especially as halfway houses between
33 the institutions of the division and the homes of the delinquents,
34 or as permanent residence homes for those who have no suitable
35 family or foster home; provided, also, that the above provisions
36 shall not be construed as limited to these purposes, other suitable
37 uses to be determined in accordance with the operating policies
38 of the division of youth service.