

By Mr. Cain of Wilmington, petition of Fred F. Cain relative to transferring the jurisdiction of community clinical nursery schools for retarded children of pre-school age from the Department of Mental Health to the Department of Education. Social Welfare.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Seventy.

AN ACT TRANSFERRING THE JURISDICTION OF COMMUNITY CLINICAL NURSERY SCHOOLS FOR RETARDED CHILDREN OF PRE-SCHOOL AGE FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH TO THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION.

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 1. Section 29B of chapter 69 of the General Laws,
2 as most recently amended by section 2 of chapter 501 of the
3 acts of 1966, is hereby further amended by adding the
4 following sentence:—The department shall reimburse a city
5 or town in which a child attending a clinical nursery school
6 established under section twenty-nine F of said chapter sixty-
7 nine is resident by paying to it one half of the cost of the
8 transportation of such child to and from such nursery school
9 on each day it is in session.

1 SECTION 2. Said chapter 69 of the General Laws is hereby
2 amended by inserting after section 29E the following sec-
3 tion:—

4 *Section 29F.* The department shall establish and maintain
5 a community clinical nursery school for retarded children of
6 preschool age in any city or town where six or more such
7 children are determined by the department to be eligible for
8 and seeking admission to such a nursery school. The depart-
9 ment may establish and maintain in any other city or town as
10 it shall determine appropriate for the purpose such a clinical
11 nursery school for such children. Upon the application of a

12 parent, the department shall examine a child to determine his
13 eligibility for admission to a clinical nursery school.

14 Whenever transportation to such nursery school is re-
15 quired, the department shall notify the school department of
16 the city or town in which the child resides of his admission to
17 the nursery school program. Following such notification, the
18 school department shall pay the cost of transporting the child
19 to and from such nursery school on such days as it is in
20 session, and shall be reimbursed one half such cost as pro-
21 vided in section twenty-nine B of chapter sixty-nine.

22 When a child who is attending a clinical nursery school is
23 prepared for transfer, and in any event when he reaches the
24 age of seven years, the department shall recommend his
25 transfer to a public school program or to some other appro-
26 priate program.

27 The department may establish clinical nursery schools in
28 any public building in the city or town where space may be
29 available and suitable for the purposes and if such space is not
30 available, may acquire adequate space by renting, leasing or
31 other available means. The department shall appoint a
32 person who, under the direction of the department, shall have
33 general supervision of the clinical nursery schools. The de-
34 partment shall also appoint a clinician to be in attendance at
35 each clinical nursery school, and may employ such other
36 persons as may be required to conduct said clinical nursery
37 schools. The department may expend for consultative services
38 such sums as may be appropriated therefor.

1 SECTION 3. Chapter 123 is hereby amended by striking out
2 section 13B, inserted by section 1 of said chapter 501 of the
3 acts of 1966.

1 SECTION 4. Any person employed on a full-time basis in the
2 community clinical nursery schools for retarded children of
3 pre-school age established by the department of mental
4 health immediately prior to the effective date of this act is
5 hereby transferred to the service of the department of educa-
6 tion with reduction in salary, impairment of status or loss
7 of seniority, retirement or other rights.