

By Mr. Cohen, a petition of Beryl W. Cohen for legislation to grant authority to the Department of Public Welfare to provide financial subsidy to parents, or a single parent, to encourage the adoption of children with special needs. Social Welfare.

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Seventy.

AN ACT GRANTING AUTHORITY TO THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WELFARE TO PROVIDE FINANCIAL SUBSIDY TO PARENTS, OR A SINGLE PARENT, TO ENCOURAGE THE ADOPTION OF CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS.

*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. Chapter one hundred and nineteen of the Gen-  
2 eral Laws is hereby amended by inserting after Section 23B,  
3 the following section: —

4 *Section 23C.* The Department may provide or contribute  
5 funds for the necessary support and maintenance of a child  
6 after he has been legally adopted, provided the child has been  
7 under the care of the Department and eligible for adoption  
8 for a period of two years, or that the child, due to physical,  
9 emotional or intellectual disability or other reasons, has special  
10 needs; and that the prospective adoptive parent, or parents,  
11 fulfill all the approved standards of parental care except the  
12 financial ability to support an additional dependent, and pre-  
13 sent the most suitable adoptive home available to fulfill the  
14 needs of the child.

1 SECTION 2. Section 6 of Chapter two hundred and ten of  
2 the General Laws, as most recently amended by Section 4 of  
3 Chapter seven hundred and thirty-seven of the Acts of 1950, is  
4 hereby further amended by inserting after the first paragraph  
5 the following paragraph: —

6 In evaluating the petitioner's ability to provide suitable sup-  
7 port for the child, the court shall give due consideration to any  
8 assurance by the Department of Public Welfare that it will  
9 provide or contribute funds for necessary support and mainte-  
10 nance for the child.