

SENATE No. 481

By Mr. Backman, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 481) of Jack H. Backman, the Massachusetts Children's Lobby, by Gwen G. Morgan, chairperson, and John A. Businger for legislation to establish policy regarding day care of children. Human Services and Elderly Affairs.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Seventy-seven.

AN ACT ESTABLISHING POLICY REGARDING DAY CARE OF CHILDREN.

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 18 of the General Laws is hereby amended by in-
2 serting, after section 5F, the following sections: —

3 *Section 5G.* Subject to the continuing availability of federal
4 reimbursement and any such other funds which are appro-
5 priated by the General Court, eligibility for day care services
6 shall be based on the need for day care, with equal considera-
7 tion given to the following categories of need: —

8 (a) working, single-parent families;

9 (b) families with two parents working because of the fam-
10 ily's need for two incomes; and

11 (c) families with problems including, but not limited to,
12 alcoholism, drug abuse, need for children protective services,
13 physical or emotional infirmities and other problems which
14 temporarily prevent parents from being able to support their
15 children's needs.

16 The following shall be income criteria for day care eligibil-
17 ity: —

18 (a) all families at or below sixty-nine percent of the state's
19 median income as computed by the department are eligible for
20 full payment of day care services by the department;

21 (b) all families between seventy percent and one-hundred
22 and fifteen percent of the state's median income as computed

23 by the department are eligible for day care if they need it,
24 on a sliding fee scale basis reasonably related to ability to pay,
25 as determined by the department.

26 The department shall determine a family's need for day care
27 in accordance with regulations promulgated by the depart-
28 ment. In planning for the allocation of services as provided
29 in the federal Social Security Act, the department shall make
30 maximum use of federal funds available for purposes of this
31 section.

32 Children eligible for day care services and enrolled in day
33 care centers prior to the effective date of this act shall remain
34 eligible for day care services and shall not be terminated from
35 day care programs.