
By Mr. Backman, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 448) of Jack H. Backman for legislation to provide training for foster parents and remuneration for their services. Human Services and Elderly Affairs.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

AN ACT PROVIDING TRAINING FOR FOSTER PARENTS AND
REMUNERATION FOR THEIR SERVICES.

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 22 of chapter 119 of the General Laws, as appearing
2 in section 8 of chapter 785 of the acts of 1972, is hereby
3 amended by inserting after said section the following new
4 section: —

5 *Section 22A.* Any person who is approved by the depart-
6 ment as a foster parent in accordance with the department's
7 standards, prior to accepting a child within its home for foster
8 care or specialized foster care, shall participate in a depart-
9 mental training program for foster parents. Said program
10 shall include but not be limited to instructing the foster parent
11 in child development practices; basic emergency medical care;
12 defining the responsibilities of the foster parent to the child
13 especially in regard to emergency medical care; defining the
14 responsibilities of the department and the social worker to the
15 foster parent and the foster child; and provided further in the
16 case of specialized foster care, training in the specific need of
17 the child, whether emotional, psychological or physical. When-
18 ever possible, the operational costs for said program shall be
19 funded by the department through the use of federal funds
20 obtained pursuant to 42 United States Code, Sections 1397-
21 1397(f).

22 Whenever the department shall place a child within an
23 approved home for the purposes of foster care, it shall develop
24 and implement a service plan to assure the provision of good
25 substitute parental care and to facilitate the return of the child

26 to his home. In order to adequately implement said service
27 plan, the department shall provide the foster parent and foster
28 child with the social services necessary to aid said child.

29 Any approved foster parent of the department shall be paid
30 a fee by the department for the foster care services provided.
31 Said fee shall be in addition to the compensation paid by the
32 department for room, board, personal needs, clothing allow-
33 ance, and other related expenses for the care of the foster
34 child. The fee shall be commensurate with the kind of care
35 and special attention required by the child based upon the
36 child's age and special needs.