

SENATE No. 1527

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

SENATE, April 27, 1978.

The committee on Education, to whom was referred the petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 250) of William L. Saltonstall, Richard R. Silva, David J. Lane and John G. King for legislation to provide for continuity of service to children whose age no longer entitles them to services under special education programs; and on the petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 4662) of Joseph T. Maguire and another that provision be made for persons receiving the benefits of special education to continue receiving such benefits upon obtaining twenty-one years of age, reports the accompanying new bill (Senate, No. 1527).

For the Committee,

WALTER J. BOVERINI

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR CONTINUITY OF SERVICES TO CHILDREN WHOSE AGE NO LONGER ENTITLES THEM TO SERVICES UNDER SPECIAL EDUCATION PROGRAMS.

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 71B of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after section 12 the following section: —

3 *Section 12A.* Upon graduation from high school or upon attaining the age of twenty-two, a person who has been receiving special education under this chapter shall be entitled to receive continuing special services in the manner hereinafter provided. The school committee which is responsible for the education of a school age child with special needs shall at least one year before the child attains the age of twenty-two or at least one year before the child's graduation, with the consent of the child's parent or guardian, refer such child to the executive office of human services which shall promptly assign an appropriate representative from a department within said office. Said representative shall participate in the development of the child's special education program during the final year in which such child is under the jurisdiction of the school committee. Said school committee shall, with the consent of the child's parent or guardian, provide said representative with copies of relevant portions of the child's record. Immediately after such child attains the age of twenty-two or after such child's graduation from high school, the said executive office shall determine and provide such continuing special services as may be needed for said child.