By Mr. Berry, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 647) of Frederick E. Berry, Carol Orenstein and Frances F. Alexander for legislation to authorize the Department of Social Services and the Department of Mental Health to jointly fund a residential and family support program for autistic adolescents. Human Services and Elderly Affairs.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Eighty-Six.

AN ACT AUTHORIZING THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES AND THE DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH TO JOINTLY FUND A RESIDENTIAL AND FAMILY SUPPORT PROGRAM FOR AUTISTIC ADOLESCENTS DEMONSTRATION PROJECT.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

SECTION 1. The department of social services and the department of mental health, acting jointly, are hereby authorized and directed to establish a residential and family support program for children between the ages of seven and seventeen who are autistic or have an autistic-like disorder. Said program shall be established under a Region III Demonstration Program.

SECTION 2. For the purpose of section one, the department of social services and the department of mental health shall each appropriate and specifically earmark for a region III demonstration project the sum of two hundred and fifty thousand dollars.

SECTION 3. This act shall take effect upon its passage.