

By Mrs. Gray of Framingham, petition of Barbara E. Gray, Barbara Hildt and Patricia G. Fiero for legislation to require physicians and others to report abuse of patients by fellow physicians and others. Health Care.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

AN ACT TO REQUIRE PHYSICIANS AND OTHERS TO REPORT ABUSE OF PATIENTS BY FELLOW PHYSICIANS AND OTHERS.

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 111, Section 72 of the General Laws is hereby amended
2 by adding after paragraph 2, the following new paragraphs: —

3 Any physician, medical intern, registered nurse, nurse's aid,
4 orderly, medical examiner, dentist, optometrist, optician, chiro-
5 practor, podiatrist, coroner, police officer, speech pathologist,
6 audiologist, social worker, pharmacist, physical or occupational
7 therapist, mental health counselor, psychotherapist, or health
8 officer who has reasonable cause to believe that a patient of
9 another above mentioned professional is being abused by that
10 professional, physically or sexually, or mistreated or neglected by
11 that professional, shall immediately report such abuse, mistreat-
12 ment, or neglect to the professionals' respective board of licensing
13 or registration by oral communication and by making a written
14 report within forty-eight hours after such oral communication.
15 Any person required to make such oral and written reports and
16 who fails to do so, shall be punished by a fine of not more than
17 2500 dollars.

18 No person who in good faith provides such information shall be
19 liable in civil court for damages as a result of his providing such
20 information unless such reports constitute willful, wanton, or
21 intentional libel or slander.

[The following text is extremely faint and illegible due to low contrast and blurring. It appears to be a multi-paragraph document, possibly a letter or a report, with several lines of text per paragraph. The content is not discernible.]