

By Mr. Lewis, a petition (accompanied by resolve, Senate, No. 612) of Arthur Joseph Lewis, Jr., that provision be made for an investigation and study by a special commission (including members of the General Court) relative to mental health and retardation services. Human Services and Elderly Affairs.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

RESOLVE FOR AN INVESTIGATION AND STUDY BY A SPECIAL COMMISSION
RELATIVE TO MENTAL HEALTH AND RETARDATION SERVICES.

1 *Resolved*, That provisions be made for an investigation and
2 study by a special commission (including members of the General
3 Court) relative to mental health and retardation services.

4 That a special commission to consist of fourteen members is
5 hereby established to investigate and study, as a basis for
6 legislative action, the quality and management of mental health
7 and retardation care and services in the commonwealth. Said
8 investigation and study shall include by need not be limited to
9 consideration of: institutional care; deinstitutionalization; the use
10 of seclusion and restraint; the causes of unexpected death; patient
11 abuse; procedures for voluntary and involuntary commitment;
12 contracting and budgeting practices; the effectiveness of public
13 and private mental health programs and facilities; the department
14 of mental health procedures to ensure adherence to existing law
15 and regulations.

16 Said commission shall consist of two members of the senate to
17 be appointed by the president of the senate, three members of the
18 house of representatives to be appointed by the speaker of the
19 house, and nine members at-large to be appointed by the
20 Governor; one shall have expertise in public management, one
21 shall have extensive experience in vendor management, one shall
22 be a registered nurse, one shall be a registered physician with a
23 specialty in psychiatry, one shall be a licensed psychiatric social
24 worker, one shall be a mental health advocate from the Mental
25 Patient's Liberation Front, none of which shall be or have been

26 an employee of the department of mental health within two years
27 prior to appointment to the commission; and two shall be
28 members of labor unions which represent mental health workers,
29 one each from bargaining unit 2 and bargaining unit 8.

30 All institutions, agencies, divisions, and offices of the
31 department as well as any institutions, agencies and other service
32 providers having contracts with the department for direct care to
33 patients shall provide full cooperation to the commission
34 including direct and unrestricted access to all their records, papers
35 and files, provided that any patient records examined shall have
36 patient identifying information removed.

37 The commission shall commence their investigation within
38 thirty days of passage of this resolve. Said commission shall file
39 interim reports with the clerk of the house of representatives on
40 or before December 31, nineteen hundred and eighty-six and on
41 or before June thirty, nineteen hundred and eighty-seven and shall
42 file the final report of its investigation and study and its
43 recommendations, if any, together with drafts of legislation
44 necessary to carry its recommendations into effect by filing the
45 same with said clerk on or before December thirty-first, nineteen
46 hundred and eighty-seven.