

HOUSE No. 5483

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, April 27, 1988.

The committee on Human Services and Elderly Affairs, to whom was referred the petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 4209) of Paul Kollios, Barbara Hildt, Barbara E. Gray and Carmen D. Buell relative to research into the causes and treatment of mental illness, reports recommending that the accompanying bill (House, No. 5483) ought to pass.

[Estimated Cost: \$625,000.00.]

For the committee,

PAUL KOLLIOS.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A MENTAL ILLNESS RESEARCH BOARD.

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 1. Chapter 19 of the General Laws is hereby
2 amended by inserting after Section 6 the following sections:

3 Section 6A. There shall be within the Department of Mental
4 Illness Research Board which shall be comprised of five members
5 appointed by the Commissioner who shall serve at the pleasure
6 of the Commissioner and shall have such qualifications as he shall
7 determine to be appropriate. The Commissioner shall designate
8 a member of the Board to serve as Chair. Members shall serve
9 without compensation but each member shall be reimbursed by
10 the Commonwealth for expenses.

11 The Board shall develop and oversee research programs relating
12 to the causes and treatment of mental illness, including treatment
13 within a comprehensive system of community services. Said
14 research shall be subordinated at all times to laws and regulations
15 protecting the rights of mental health consumers. The Board shall
16 report annually on the agenda for, and results of, said research
17 to the house and senate committees on ways and means, to the
18 joint committee on human services and elderly affairs, and to the
19 mental health advisory council. Written reports and articles from
20 separate research projects shall be available to said legislative
21 committees and advisory council.

22 In furtherance of its purpose, the Board may enter into
23 cooperative agreements with one or more public or private
24 universities.

25 The members of the Board shall be a corporation for the
26 purpose of taking and holding by them and their successors, in
27 trust for the Commonwealth, any grant or devise of land, and any

28 grant or allocation of money or other personal property, made
29 for the use of the Board of which they are members, and for the
30 purpose of preserving and investing the proceeds thereof in notes
31 or bonds secured by good and sufficient mortgages or other
32 securities, with all the powers necessary to carry said purposes into
33 effect. Subject to the approval of the Commissioner, the Board
34 may expend any grant, gift, bequest, allocation or appropriation
35 or part thereof in furtherance of the purposes of the Board
36 provided that any property purchased by the Board shall remain
37 the property of the Commonwealth.

38 Section 6B. Ten percent of all revenue generated annually by
39 all offices and facilities of the Department, with the exception of
40 revenue generated by community mental health centers, shall be
41 allocated to the Board established in Section 6A to carry on its
42 purpose of research into the causes, treatment and cure of mental
43 illness.

1 SECTION 2. The Department of Mental Health is hereby
2 authorized to establish a three year pilot program of research-
3 scholars-in-residence within the Department's internal research
4 unit. The purpose of said program shall be to provide the
5 Department with a flexible and efficient means of conducting
6 research at all levels of the Department's responsibilities under
7 the general laws and regulations of the Commonwealth.

1 SECTION 3. The Secretary of the Executive Office of Human
2 Services shall establish a task force to consider the administrative
3 issues involved in facilitating contracts for scientific and policy
4 research for the human services. The task force shall consist of
5 at least five members, including a representative of the Secretary,
6 who shall chair the task force, and representatives of the
7 Commissioners of: the Rate Setting Commission, the Department
8 of Mental Health, the Department of Mental Retardation, and
9 the Department of Public Health. In addition, the Secretary may
10 invite representatives of other departments within EOHS to
11 participate in the task force. The task force shall make its
12 legislative and/or regulatory recommendations to the Secretary
13 by September 1, 1988, and the Secretary shall file any appropriate
14 legislation by December 1, 1988.

