

HOUSE No. 1712

By Ms. Gibson of Belmont, petition of Mary Jane Gibson and another relative to vision and auditory screening for kindergarten aged children. Education, Arts and Humanities.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

AN ACT RELATIVE TO VISION AND AUDITORY SCREENING FOR KINDERGARTEN AGED CHILDREN.

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 2 of Chapter 71B of the General Laws is hereby
2 amended by striking the first sentence and inserting in place
3 thereof the following sentence: The department shall promulgate
4 in cooperation with the departments of mental health, public
5 health and social services, regulations regarding programs for
6 children with special needs including but not limited to a screening
7 process for kindergarten-aged children which includes a
8 comprehensive development vision exam and an auditory exam;
9 and definition of special needs, provided, however, that such
10 definition shall emphasize a thorough narrative description of
11 each child's developmental potential so as to minimize the
12 possibility of stigmatization and to ensure the maximum possible
13 development of a child with special needs, and, provided further,
14 that such definition shall be sufficiently flexible to include children
15 with multiple special needs.

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