

By Mr. Magnani of Framingham, petition of David P. Magnani and John P. Houston for legislation to authorize the Secretary of the Executive Office of Human Services to establish criteria for siting community residences. Human Services and Elderly Affairs.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

AN ACT REGARDING COMMUNITY RESIDENCES.

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

1 Notwithstanding any law to the contrary, the Secretary of the
2 Executive Office of Human Services shall establish criteria for
3 siting community residences which it runs or licenses which are
4 based on the following principles:

5 A) The commonwealth's responsibility to maximize opportu-
6 nities for disabled persons of all ages to live, learn and work in
7 communities of their choice.

8 B) The right of all citizens to privacy regarding the details of
9 their health and personal history.

10 C) The importance of informing citizens and public officials
11 about the needs and legal rights of the disabled through a variety
12 of ongoing educational programs. Citizens at many levels of
13 public and private responsibility can participate in this public
14 education effort.

15 D) An equitable distribution of residential programs among
16 Massachusetts communities is important, and each community
17 must carry its fair share of our public responsibility to these
18 disabled citizens.

19 E) Local officials and neighborhood residents should be kept
20 informed as to the organization and individual responsible for
21 establishing and/or operating each sited community residence and
22 program.

23 F) On-going efforts must be made to build community
24 commitments to welcome the disabled into Massachusetts
25 neighborhoods.

