

By Ms. Bump of Braintree, petition of Suzanne M. Bump for legislation to establish a spinal cord injury registry within the Department of Public Health. Health Care.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

AN ACT TO ESTABLISH A SPINAL CORD INJURY REGISTRY.

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

1 The General Laws are hereby amended by inserting after
2 chapter III, section 202 the following new section: —

3 Section 203. The department shall develop and implement a
4 system for the early identification of persons with spinal cord
5 injuries and for the referral of such persons for assistance,
6 including establishment of a mandatory central registry of such
7 persons. In addition, the department shall:

8 (1) Collect and disseminate information concerning the latest
9 proven advances in treatment methods for spinal cord
10 dysfunctions.

11 (2) Inform parents of children with spinal cord disabilities,
12 citizens, families, and agencies of the availability of programs and
13 services.

14 (3) Identify and cooperate with existing agencies, organiza-
15 tions, and individuals offering services to the spinal cord disabled.

16 (4) Identify service needs which cannot be adequately met by
17 existing agencies.

18 (5) Prepare and submit an annual progress report to the House
19 and Senate Committees on Health Care and to the governor at
20 least sixty days prior to the legislative session.

21 (6) Develop and implement a spinal cord injury prevention
22 program, using data collected by the central registry to identify
23 causes of the injuries.

24 As used in this section, "spinal cord injury" means any injury
25 to the spinal cord by disease, injury, neural tube defect or
26 hydrocephalus, whether congenital or acquired, which results in
27 death or partial or total loss of motor or sensory functions, or
28 both, and which results in partial or total disability, whether such
29 disability is temporary or permanent.

30 A physician, intern or medical assistant, registered as provided
31 in section nine A of chapter 112, a public health nurse, or another
32 person who professionally examines or treats a person with a
33 spinal cord injury, or, whenever any such case is treated in a
34 hospital, sanatorium or other institution, the manager,
35 superintendent or other person in charge thereof, shall report such
36 injury to the department in accordance with the rules and
37 regulations of the department. Such report shall describe as fully
38 as possible the etiology of said injury, shall be made on forms
39 prescribed by the commissioner, and shall be submitted not later
40 than three days, unless special circumstances justify a later
41 reporting, after said physician, intern, medical assistant, nurse, or
42 other person examines the injured person, or after said patient
43 has been admitted to a hospital, sanatorium, or other institution.

44 A physician, intern or medical assistant neglecting or refusing
45 to file a report required by this section, or who makes a false
46 statement therein, shall be subject to a fine of not more than fifty
47 dollars.