

HOUSE No. 4885

By Mr. Moore of Uxbridge, petition of the Massachusetts Democratic Leadership Council, Inc., A. Stephen Tobin and other members of the House for legislation to provide programs and policies for the development of children and families. Human Services and Elderly Affairs.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Petition signed by:

Massachusetts Democratic Leadership Council, Inc.
by Richard T. Moore

A. Stephen Tobin
Anthony P. Giglio
Susan F. Rourke
Larry F. Giordano
Marc R. Pacheco
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In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Ninety-Two.

AN ACT TO PROVIDE A MAINSTREAM AGENDA FOR MASSACHUSETTS CHILDREN AND FAMILIES.

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 28A of the General Laws as appearing
2 in the 1988 Official Edition is hereby amended by striking out the
3 title, and inserting in place thereof, the title, "Office for Children
4 and Families."

1 SECTION 2. Section 2 of chapter 28A of the General Laws
2 as appearing in the 1988 Official Edition, is hereby amended by
3 inserting after the word, "children", in lines 20 and 21, the words
4 "and families."

1 SECTION 3. Section 3 of chapter 28A of the General Laws
2 as appearing in the 1988 Official Edition, is hereby amended by
3 inserting after the word "children" in the title and after the word
4 "children" in line 1, the words "and families".

1 SECTION 4. Section 4 of chapter 28A of the General Laws
2 as appearing in the 1988 Official Edition is hereby amended in
3 subsection (a) after the word "children" in line 3, the words "and
4 families", by inserting after the word "children's" in lines 3-4, the
5 words "and families"; and in subsection (b), by inserting after the
6 word "children" in line 5, the words "and families".

1 SECTION 5. Chapter 28A of the General Laws is hereby
2 amended by inserting after section 5, the following new section:

3 28A: 5A Development of Family Leave Service.

4 Section 5A. The office shall promote the development of family
5 leave services in the following manner: —

6 1. The office shall provide general information and technical
7 assistance to state agencies, private corporations and other
8 organizations relative to the development of family leave
9 programs and policies.

10 2. The office shall provide information and technical assistance
11 relative to the development of programs and policies:

12 a) Making flex time arrangements that encourage more parental
13 contact with children;

14 b) Offering dependent care plans whether through on-site day
15 care or through area day care providers;

16 c) Offering sick child care;

17 d) Offering parental time off to attend teacher conferences;

18 e) Making home-based employment possible for those
19 employees whose jobs lend themselves to seek arrangements.

20 3. The office shall encourage parental responsibility through the
21 provision of information and technical assistance including, but
22 not limited to, information regarding programs used in other
23 states such as legislation which makes it a misdemeanor for
24 parents to knowingly permit their children to be involved in gang
25 activities, to have excessive school absences, or for parental failure
26 to attend school conference to review their child's educational
27 progress.

28 4. The office shall review and make recommendations,
29 including proposals for legislation, relative to programs to
30 strengthen parental responsibility in case of divorce, separation
31 or out of wedlock birth, including, but not limited to the following
32 concepts:

33 a) Society would commit itself to identifying every child's father
34 and mother. In the future, the Social Security numbers of both
35 parents would appear on each child's birth certificate.

36 b) All absent parents would be expected to contribute a portion
37 of their income, and the portion would vary with the number of
38 children they fathered or bore.

39 c) Payments would be collected by employers, just like Social
40 Security taxes, and remitted to the federal government, which

41 would then send this money directly to the custodial parent. All
42 absent parents would be included, not just delinquents. Failure
43 to pay would be an offense comparable to tax evasion.

1 SECTION 6. Section 7 of chapter 28A of the General Laws
2 as appearing in the 1988 Official Edition is hereby amended by
3 inserting after the word “children” in the title and in line 2, the
4 words, “and families”. Said section 7 is hereby further amended
5 by striking the word “consensus”, and inserting in place thereof,
6 the words, “children and families who may utilize or have need
7 of services”, and by inserting after the word “children” in lines 9,
8 10, 13, 16, 17 and 19, the words “and families”.

9 Said section 7 is hereby further amended by inserting at the end
10 of the second sentence, the following: — , provided, however, that
11 no provider shall serve on such council whose organization has
12 a contract or proposal subject to evaluation, monitoring or review
13 by such council pursuant to subsection (d) or (e) of this section.

1 SECTION 7. Section 8 of chapter 28A of the General Laws
2 as appearing in the 1988 Official Edition, by inserting after the
3 word “children” in lines 6, 18, 20 and 26, the words “and families”.