

By Mr. Sullivan of Norwood, petition of Gregory W. Sullivan relative to the boards of trustees of certain hospitals of the Commonwealth. Health Care.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

AN ACT RELATIVE TO THE BOARDS OF TRUSTEES OF CERTAIN STATE HOSPITALS.

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

1 Chapter 19 of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting
2 after section 14 the following section: —

3 Section 14D. (a) The trustees of the Belchertown state school,
4 Massachusetts mental health center (Boston Psychopathic
5 hospital), Boston state hospital, Danvers state hospital,
6 Foxborough state hospital, Gardner state hospital, Grafton state
7 hospital, Walter E. Fernald state school, Medfield state hospital,
8 Metropolitan state hospital, Monson development center,
9 Northampton state hospital, Taunton state hospital, Worcester
10 state hospital, Cushing hospital, Paul A. Dever state school and
11 Wrentham state school shall meet at least three times per year,
12 shall visit and familiarize themselves with their respective public
13 institutions, and may from time to time make suggestions to the
14 department as to improvements therein, especially such as will
15 make the administration thereof more effective, economical and
16 humane.

17 (b) All trustees shall have free access to all books, records, and
18 accounts pertaining to their respective public institutions, and
19 shall be admitted at all times to the buildings and premises thereof.

20 (c) They shall record their visits and observations at the public
21 institutions in a book kept there for that purpose. They shall trans-
22 mit promptly to the department a copy of the proceedings of each
23 meeting.

24 (d) They may personally hear and investigate the complaints
25 and requests of any patient or resident, his attorney, guardian,
26 conservator or nearest friend or relative, or any officer or
27 employee of the public institution. If they deem any such matter
28 of sufficient importance, after determining what, if anything,
29 should be done relative thereto, they shall make written report
30 of their determination to the department.

31 (e) They may at any time cause the superintendent or any
32 officer or employee of their respective public institution to appear
33 before them and answer any questions or produce any books or
34 documents relative to the public institution.