

HOUSE No. 5449

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, April 17, 1991.

The committee on Human Services and Elderly Affairs, to whom was referred the petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 386) of Marie J. Parente, Gloria L. Fox, Larry F. Giordano and Stanley C. Rosenberg relative to the placement of children in foster care, reports recommending that the accompanying bill (House, No. 5449) ought to pass.

For the committee,

MARIE J. PARENTE.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

AN ACT RELATIVE TO THE PLACEMENT OF CHILDREN IN FOSTER CARE.

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 23 of chapter 119 of the General Laws, as amended by
2 chapter 128 of the acts of 1988, is hereby further amended by
3 inserting after the first paragraph the following four para-
4 graphs: —

5 Whenever a child or children are placed in a foster home, or
6 are transferred from one foster home to another, or from one state
7 facility for the care of children to a foster home, a child profile
8 shall precede or accompany the child or children to the placement
9 in a foster home.

10 In the case of an emergency placement, the child profile shall
11 be received by the foster parents from the Department, the
12 Department of Youth Services, the Department of Mental Health,
13 other departments of the commonwealth responsible for the
14 placement of foster children, or placement agency within ten days
15 of the child's placement in the foster home. At the time of an
16 emergency placement, the Department, the Department of Youth
17 Services, the Department of Mental Health, other departments
18 of the commonwealth responsible for the placement of foster
19 children, or placement agency will provide to the foster parents,
20 in verbal or written form, a brief statement describing the child's
21 outstanding problem behaviors and mental and emotional
22 problems.

23 The Department, the Department of Youth Services, the
24 Department of Mental Health, other departments of the
25 commonwealth responsible for the placement of foster children,
26 or placement agency shall develop and implement a form which
27 shall contain the child profile and any other relevant information
28 necessary to the care, well-being, protection, and parenting of the
29 child by the foster parents.

30 The child profile shall be prepared at the time, or immediately
31 thereafter, of custody and placement with the Department.

32 The child profile bill shall contain, but not be limited to, a
33 history of the child's previous placements and reasons for
34 placement changes; a history of the child's problem behaviors and
35 mental and emotional problems; educational status and school
36 related problem behaviors; and any other psychological,
37 educational, medical, and health information necessary.

