

HOUSE No. 5128

By Mr. Doyle of Boston, petition of Charles Robert Doyle other members of the House and another for legislation to require reporting to the Department of Public Health of improper care and treatment of infants born with congenital defects. Health Care.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

AN ACT REQUIRING REPORTING TO THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH OF INSTANCES OF LACK OF PROPER CARE AND TREATMENT OF INFANTS BORN WITH CONGENITAL DEFECTS.

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 67E of chapter 111 of the General Laws, as inserted by
2 section 3 of chapter 22 of the acts of 1963, is hereby amended by
3 adding the following paragraph: —

4 Any employee or staff member of a hospital or health care
5 facility, including, without limitation, a physician, intern, nurse,
6 nurses' aide, administrator, dietician, orderly, or technician, who
7 has reasonable cause to believe that an infant in the care of said
8 hospital or facility, who was born with a congenital defect or
9 handicap, is not receiving the proper care or treatment or nourish-
10 ment, shall immediately report such condition to the department
11 by oral communication and by a written report within forty-eight
12 hours after such oral communication. Said report shall contain the
13 name and address of the child and his parents, if known, and the
14 circumstances involving the lack of proper care and treatment or
15 nourishment, and the identity of the person or persons responsible
16 thereof.

Dr. Mc Dermott, President of the Board of Health, has been appointed to the position of Director of the Department of Public Health, and the Department of Health will be organized under his direction.

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