

SENATE No. 1659

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

SENATE, April 25, 1994.

The committee on Human Services and Elderly Affairs, to whom was referred the petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 592) of Jane M. Swift and Mary Jane Simmons for legislation to establish a consumer and ex-patient advisory council relative to mental health programs report the accompanying bill (Senate, No. 1659).

For the committee,

THERESE MURRAY.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

AN ACT ESTABLISHING A CONSUMER AND EX-PATIENT MENTAL HEALTH ADVISORY COUNCIL.

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 21, the following new section: —

3 Section 22. There shall be a consumer and ex-patient mental
4 health advisory council consisting of forty persons to be appointed
5 by the commissioner of mental health, twenty of which will be
6 full members and twenty of which will be alternate members.
7 Thirty-eight persons shall have personally received services for
8 mental illness, of which nine full members and nine alternates shall
9 represent the areas of the Department of Mental Health, as they
10 may be amended from time to time, five full members and five
11 alternates shall be at-large representatives, three full members and
12 three alternates shall be adolescent representatives, and two full
13 members and two alternates shall be elder representatives. The
14 remaining two persons shall represent the interests of parents of
15 children who are service consumers.

16 Upon the expiration of the term of office of any member, his
17 successor shall be appointed for a term of three years. No member
18 shall be appointed to serve more than two consecutive three-year
19 terms. The council shall elect a president, a vice-president, and
20 an executive secretary annually. The council shall serve without
21 compensation, but each member will be reimbursed by the
22 Commonwealth for all expenses incurred in the performance of
23 his official duties. Said council shall have the following duties:

24 (a) It shall advise the Commissioner on policy, program
25 development, and priorities of need in the Commonwealth for
26 comprehensive programs in mental health;

27 (b) It shall participate with the Department in holding a series
28 of public hearings throughout the Commonwealth to obtain the

29 views of the Area and CCSS Advisory Boards, trustees and other
30 citizens concerning the programs of the Department and needs
31 for mental health services;

32 (c) It shall review the annual plan and the proposed annual
33 budget of the Department, and make recommendations to the
34 commissioner in regards thereto;

35 (d) It shall appoint such advisory committees as the Advisory
36 Council may from time to time deem necessary, provided that the
37 members of such committees shall serve for such terms as the
38 Advisory Council may determine;

39 (e) It shall hold at least nine meetings per year and convene
40 special meetings at the call of a president of the council, a majority
41 of the council, or the commissioner.

