

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF HUMAN SERVICES
MASSACHUSETTS REHABILITATION COMMISSION
FORT POINT PLACE — SUITE 600
27-43 WORMWOOD STREET, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02210
NOVEMBER 1, 1994.

The Honorable Michael J. Connolly, *Secretary of State*
State House, Boston, Massachusetts 02133

Dear Secretary Connolly:

On behalf of the Massachusetts Rehabilitation Commission, I am pleased to submit our proposed legislation for the 1995 session, in accordance with section thirty-three of chapter thirty of the General Laws. Our legislation consists of two bills:

1. AN ACT CONCERNING THE MASSACHUSETTS REHABILITATION COMMISSION.
2. AN ACT CONCERNING THE TRUST FUND FOR HEAD INJURY TREATMENT SERVICES.

We have attached a summary of these bills. Legislators or members of the public who have questions about this legislation may contact our General Counsel, Nancy Franklin Earsy at (617) 727-2173.

Respectfully submitted,

ELMER C. BARTELS,
Commissioner of Rehabilitation.

*LEGISLATIVE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE
MASSACHUSETTS REHABILITATION COMMISSION*

1. AN ACT CONCERNING THE MASSACHUSETTS REHABILITATION
COMMISSION.

The Massachusetts Rehabilitation Commission enabling law, establishing the framework and key provisions for vocational rehabilitation and independent living services to serve people with disabilities was last recodified in 1981. The 1992 amendments to the federal Rehabilitation Act significantly change the terminology, eligibility requirements and services provided through these state-federal programs. This legislation brings state law into compliance with federal requirements. It also updates the Commission's operational mandates so that they are consistent with subsequent changes in state laws and service delivery arrangements.

2. AN ACT CONCERNING THE TRUST FUND FOR HEAD INJURY TREATMENT SERVICES.

Currently the Massachusetts Rehabilitation Commission must go through the appropriations process each year in order to expend funds for head injury treatment services from the trust fund established by sections 286 and 287 of Chapter 138 of the Acts of 1991. Authority for the trust fund was modified and reestablished by section 71 of Chapter 133 of the Acts of 1992, sections 61 and 140 of Chapter 110 of the Acts of 1993, and section 35 of Chapter 60 of the Acts of 1994. The proposed legislation eliminates the extra appropriation step for such expenditures and substitutes a post-expenditure annual reporting requirement so that the Commission remains accountable for review by the House and Senate Ways and Means Committees to ensure that expenditures were made for head injury treatment purposes.