

By Mrs. Parente of Milford, petition of Marie J. Parente and other members of the General Court relative to the protection of children in cases of domestic violence. Human Services and Elderly Affairs.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

AN ACT RELATIVE TO THE PROTECTION OF CHILDREN IN CASES OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE.

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 1. Section 51A of Chapter 119 of the General Laws,
2 as appearing in the 1992 Official Edition, is hereby amended
3 by inserting, after the word "communication", in line 21, the
4 following:— provided, however, that the knowledge that a parent
5 is seeking or has sought services related to domestic violence,
6 including but not limited to a restraining order or other protective
7 order, shall not, in and of itself constitute such reasonable cause.

1 SECTION 2. Section 51A of Chapter 119 is hereby further
2 amended by deleting, in line 21, the word "however" and inserting
3 in place thereof the word, "further".

1 SECTION 3. Section 51B of Chapter 119 is hereby amended
2 by adding, at the end of subsection (1), the following sentence:—
3 In evaluating the information reported under section 51A, the
4 department shall screen out any such reports which are based
5 solely on the knowledge that a parent is seeking or has sought
6 services related to domestic violence, including but not limited to
7 a restraining order; however, the department may provide services
8 to the family if needed.

