

By Mr. Moore, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 284) of Richard T. Moore, John T. Robarts, Emily J. Robarts, Bruce E. Tarr, Mary Jeanette Murray, Robert S. Hargraves and other members of the General Court for legislation relative to the registration and fees for special education advocates. Education, Arts and Humanities.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

AN ACT RELATIVE TO THE REGISTRATION AND FEES FOR SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVOCATES.

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 three of chapter 71B of the Massachusetts General
2 Laws, appearing in the Official Edition, is hereby amended in the
3 twelfth paragraph, after the words "evaluation of the child and the
4 appropriate education program." by inserting the following para-
5 graphs: —

6 In such cases where the parent, guardian or persons with cus-
7 tody of the child refuse the program of education suggested by the
8 school committee and enter into special education placement hear-
9 ings; any individual, other than an attorney, organization or
10 agency, which for a fee or other compensation serves as an advo-
11 cate for the child or the parent, guardian or persons with custody
12 of the child, must be registered with the Department of Education.
13 The Department of Education is hereby authorized to establish
14 certification standards for special education advocates obtained by
15 the parent, guardian or persons with custody of the student. All
16 advocates will be required to be registered, under said certifica-
17 tion standards, with the Department of Education. Information on
18 certification status of advocates shall be public information.

19 Fees charged for said advocacy services shall be established by,
20 and subject to the control of, the Rate Setting Commission in
21 accordance with the procedures and practices of said commission.
22 No fees shall be based upon percentages of tuition, or other
23 charges which may be obtained for the child through the interven-
24 tion or service of the advocate.

