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By Mr. Lynch (by request), a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 83) of Virginia Giblin for legislation to authorize the Director of Industrial Accidents to investigate and study issues related to vocational rehabilitation services offered to injured employees under the worker's compensation system. Commerce and Labor.

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## The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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In the Year Two Thousand and One.

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### AN ACT RELATIVE TO VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION SERVICES UNDER THE WORKER'S COMPENSATION SYSTEM.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:*

1 The Director of the Department of Industrial Accidents shall  
2 investigate and study the following issues related to vocational  
3 rehabilitation services offered to injured employees under the  
4 worker's compensation system: (1) expanding the purpose of  
5 vocational rehabilitation to include preparing the injured worker  
5 for job advancements similar to those offered to non-injured  
6 workers; (2) extending the duration of the vocational rehabilita-  
7 tion services offered to injured employees; (3) allowing an injured  
8 worker to select a private rehabilitation counselor from a list pro-  
9 vided by the department of industrial accidents; (4) allowing  
10 injured workers to have the right to request an evaluation by the  
11 Massachusetts rehabilitation commission regarding their employa-  
12 bility to be used by the department of industrial accidents to deter-  
13 mine the worker's earning capacity upon return to work; (5)  
14 investigating the insurer's role, benefits paid to the worker and  
15 responsibility for costs associated with determining rehabilitation  
16 plans for state employees who are eligible for disability retire-  
17 ment. Said report shall be filed with the Chairmen of the Joint  
18 Committee on Commerce and labor no later than July 1, 2002.

