

By Ms. Murray, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 968) of Kevin M. Burke, Essex County District Attorney, Therese Murray, Thomas F. Reilly, Attorney General, and other members of the General Court to authorize the establishment of a community based juvenile/youthful justice program in the Commonwealth. The Judiciary.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand and One.

AN ACT TO ESTABLISH PARTNERSHIPS FOR CHILDREN'S SAFETY.

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. Chapter 12 of the General Laws is hereby
2 amended by inserting after section 27, as appearing in the 1996
3 Official Edition, the following section:—
4 Section 27A. The district attorney in each district may estab-
5 lish, subject to appropriation, a community based juvenile/youth-
6 ful justice program for the purposes of insuring the safety and
7 security of the public and private schools of the commonwealth,
8 addressing the problems of juvenile and youthful violence,
9 improving the services available to school-aged youth, insuring
10 the effective use of resources by state and local law enforcement
11 and social service agencies, and promoting collaboration among
12 schools, local and state law enforcement agencies, private
13 industry, municipalities, the probation department, and the depart-
14 ments of social services, youth services, mental health and public
15 health. Said program shall assist in the development of school and
16 community based programs that are designed to prevent violence
17 and delinquency, develop techniques for the early identification of
18 at-risk youth, divert non-violent youthful offenders from the juve-
19 nile or criminal justice system, and insure the availability of and
20 access to community based rehabilitative services including, but
21 not limited to, substance abuse services for youthful offenders
22 when appropriate. Notwithstanding any general or special law to

