

By Mr. Marotta of Medford, petition of Angelo Marotta relative to the appointment of school adjustment counselors and school social workers and defining certain duties to be performed by them. Education.

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

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

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE APPOINTMENT OF SCHOOL ADJUSTMENT COUNSELORS AND SCHOOL SOCIAL WORKERS AND DEFINING CERTAIN DUTIES TO BE PERFORMED BY THEM.

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

1 Chapter 71 of the General Laws is hereby amended by striking  
2 out section 46G, as amended by chapter 696 of the acts of 1955,  
3 and inserting in place thereof the following section: —

4 *Section 46G.* To facilitate the early detection of children  
5 manifesting traits tending toward juvenile delinquency and to  
6 assist in the prevention of such children becoming juvenile  
7 delinquents, any city or town acting by its school committee and  
8 out of funds appropriated for general school purposes, and any  
9 regional school district may employ such number of school  
10 adjustment counselors and school social workers as the school  
11 committee, with the written approval of the director of the  
12 division of youth service in the department of education, shall  
13 deem necessary. Each such school adjustment counselor and  
14 school social worker shall be responsible for (a) counseling and  
15 helping children in the primary, elementary, and secondary  
16 grades who are neglected, maladjusted, emotionally disturbed,  
17 neurotic or otherwise potentially delinquent and are referred to  
18 him by a teacher, principal or to other school personnel, (b)  
19 cooperating with teachers, principals and all other school  
20 personnel in assisting and readjusting such children, (c)

21 establishing helpful and kindly relationships with the home for  
22 the purpose of assisting parents to improve spiritual, moral,  
23 economic, physical or social conditions that threaten the welfare  
24 of the child and of society, (d) enlisting the interest and the help of  
25 clergymen and other local leaders and officials in a mutual  
26 community effort to save such children from delinquency, and (e)  
27 serving as a referral agent to obtain necessary aid from specialized  
28 public or private organizations in serious cases which appear to  
29 be beyond the resources of the community. No person shall be  
30 employed under this section unless his professional and personal  
31 qualifications have been approved by the commissioner of  
32 education and the director of said division of youth service. If  
33 said commissioner or said director disapproves the qualifications  
34 of such person, he shall state in writing his reasons. Any town or  
35 regional school district not requiring the services of school  
36 adjustment counselors and school social workers on a full time  
37 basis may join with one or more other town or regional school  
38 districts in employing school adjustment counselors and school  
39 social workers under the limitations of this section.