

By Mr. Kafka of Sharon, petition of Louis L. Kafka, William R. Keating and William C. Galvin for legislation to require children committed to the Department of Youth Services to receive a high school diploma or its equivalent. Human Services and Elderly Affairs.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

AN ACT REQUIRING CHILDREN COMMITTED TO THE DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH SERVICES TO RECEIVE A HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA OR ITS EQUIVALENT.

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 120 of the General Laws is hereby amended by
- 2 inserting after section 12 the following section: —
- 3 Section 12A. Notwithstanding the provisions of any law to the
- 4 contrary, a child committed to the custody of the department until
- 5 the age of eighteen years shall receive a high school diploma or
- 6 general equivalency diploma prior to release from custody; pro-
- 7 vided, however, that any child, who at the time of release has not
- 8 received such a diploma shall, as a condition of said release, be
- 9 enrolled and successfully complete a program which grants such
- 10 diplomas. The court, upon committing a child to the department
- 11 upon conviction of a crime, shall require the child to receive a
- 12 high school diploma or general equivalency diploma in accor-
- 13 dance with the provisions of this section.

