

By Mr. Guerriero of Melrose, petition of Patrick C. Guerriero and Richard R. Tisei relative to the waiting list for services provided by the Department of Mental Retardation. Human and Elderly Affairs.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

AN ACT RELATIVE TO THE DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL RETARDATION'S
WAITING LIST.

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

1 Notwithstanding the provisions of any general law or special
2 law to the contrary, the commissioner of the department of mental
3 retardation is hereby directed to prepare a plan to identify the
4 needs of people with mental retardation who are currently
5 awaiting services from said department of mental retardation.
6 Said plan shall define the department's "waiting list" in terms of
7 size and nature of services for which people are waiting. Said
8 plan shall include a proposal to address the current and antici-
9 pated waiting list over a five-year period, including identifying
10 the range of services to be provided in four major categories:
11 twenty-four hour residential services, work and training pro-
12 grams, transportation services, and family support services. Said
13 plan shall be submitted to the house and senate chairmen of the
14 joint committee on human services and elderly affairs and the
15 house and senate chairmen of the committees on ways and means
16 within ninety days of the passage of this act.

