

HOUSE No. 4461

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, May 12, 1997.

The committee on Human Services and Elderly Affairs, to whom were referred the petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 2125) of Marie J. Parente for legislation to further regulate the treatment of mentally ill persons, and the petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 2126) of Marie J. Parente for legislation to further regulate commitments of certain mentally ill persons, reports recommending that the accompanying resolve (House, No. 4461) ought to pass.

For the committee,

MICHAEL P. CAHILL.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

RESOLVE CREATING A SPECIAL COMMISSION TO STUDY AND INVESTIGATE THE COMMONWEALTH'S INVOLUNTARY COMMITMENT LAWS FOR PERSONS WITH MENTAL ILLNESS.

1 *Resolved*, there is hereby created a special commission to study
2 and investigate the Commonwealth's involuntary commitment
3 laws for persons with mental illness. Said commission shall con-
4 sist of the commissioner of the department of mental health or her
5 designee; a representative from the department of mental health's
6 office of consumer and ex-patient relations who shall also be a
7 current or former consumer of department of mental health
8 services; a current or former consumer of department of mental
9 health services from a mental health consumer advocacy organiza-
10 tion; a representative from a mental health professional organiza-
11 tion; a representative from the Alliance for the Mentally Ill, all to
12 be appointed by the governor; two members of the house of repre-
13 sentatives chosen by the speaker; and a member of the senate
14 chosen by the senate president.

15 Said commission in the course of its investigation and study
16 shall review and analyze all components of the Commonwealth's
17 involuntary commitment laws, procedures and policies, including
18 but not limited to the need to change current commitment policies,
19 and the feasibility and practicability of establishing outpatient
20 commitment policies. Said investigation shall include but not be
21 limited to the following issue areas: involuntary commitment laws
22 as they pertain to human rights, patient's rights, public safety,
23 consumer safety, the role of family members in involuntary com-
24 mitment and consumer choice.

25 Said commission shall report to the Joint Committee on Human
26 Services and Elderly Affairs; the House Ways and Means
27 Committee; and the Senate Ways and Means Committee the results
28 of its study, and recommendations, if any, together with drafts of
29 legislation, if necessary, to carry its recommendations into effect,
30 by filing the same with the clerks of the senate and the house of
31 representatives within ninety days of the date of enactment.