

By Mrs. Cleven of Chelmsford, petition of Carol C. Cleven, Pamela P. Resor, Mary Jane Simmons, Barbara E. Gray and Marie-Louise Kehoe for legislation to provide services for autistic persons by the Department of Mental Retardation, Human Services and Elderly Affairs.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

AN ACT PROVIDING SERVICES FOR PERSONS WITH AUTISM BY THE DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL RETARDATION.

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 19B:12 of the Massachusetts General Laws is hereby
2 amended by deleting Section 12 and inserting in place thereof the
3 following:

4 19B:12 Community mental retardation services.

5 Section 12. The department shall establish a comprehensive
6 program of community mental retardation services which shall
7 include state schools and other facilities of the department and
8 shall establish standards for the development of mental
9 retardation programs at appropriate geographic levels to ensure
10 access to needed services. The commissioner shall ensure citizens,
11 consumer and family participation, through the appointment of
12 mental retardation citizens' advisory committees and other
13 appropriate methods, in the oversight of mental retardation
14 services at all such levels, including the local levels. Said
15 comprehensive program shall include services for persons with
16 autism to the same extent as those provided for mentally retarded
17 persons.

18 For the purpose of implementing the provisions of this section,
19 the commissioner of mental retardation shall make a plan for
20 development of a comprehensive set of programs for persons with
21 autism, including:

22 (a) recommendations for legislative actions and departmental
23 changes to regulations,

24 (b) identification of services required,

25 (c) standards for provision of services appropriate for autistic
26 persons,

27 (d) funding requirements to support this plan,

28 (e) recommendations for monitoring and providing specialized
29 technical assistance to persons with autism and to programs which
30 serve persons with autism.

31 Persons with autism will continue to receive services within the
32 operating Department of Mental Retardation structure. This act
33 will make available specialized expertise and supplemental
34 services needed by persons with autism.

35 The commission shall file a report to the general court no later
36 than December thirty-first nineteen hundred ninety-four.