

By Mr. Muther of Newton, petition of Patricia Flerage, Lorenz F. Muther, Jr., and another for legislation to establish educational programs in the Department of Mental Health encouraging courses in the mental health field. Public Welfare.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

AN ACT TO ESTABLISH EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS IN THE DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH ENCOURAGING COURSES IN THE MENTAL HEALTH FIELD.

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 inserting after section 46J the following section: —

3 *Section 46K.* The department of mental health may provide, in the several mental institutions of the commonwealth, long-term recruitment programs to encourage high school students to consider training for the mental health professions and professions, particularly the care and teaching of the mentally ill and the mentally retarded.

9 In cooperation with local high schools, junior and senior students may be selected and assigned individually to hospital staff members for a few hours a week over an extended period in order to gain an understanding of mental health care and training. In addition to this individual assignment, an explanatory group session may be provided once a week for all students participating in each institution.

16 In conjunction with the program for the high school students, programs may be offered within the mental institutions for administration, guidance counselors, and teachers of participating schools to provide a background of understanding within the community of mental health care and training.

21 The staff of the program within each hospital may consist of a social worker and a psychiatrist, or persons of similar professional training, who will be responsible for the selection, as-

24 signment, and group direction, and other administrative aspects
25 of the program. In addition, a state supervisor may be ap-
26 pointed to coordinate the entire program, the overall cost of
27 the salaries for the staff of the several programs not to exceed
28 thirty thousand dollars, notwithstanding any provision of law
29 to the contrary.