

Accompanying the third recommendation of the Department of Mental Retardation (House, No. 154). Human Services and Elderly Affairs.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

AN ACT REESTABLISHING CERTAIN CITIZEN ADVISORY BOARDS IN 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 SECTION 1. Chapter nineteen B of the General Laws, as
2 amended by chapter 58 of the Acts of 1996, is hereby amended by
3 striking section nine and inserting in place thereof the following
4 section: —

5 Section 9. The governor shall appoint a board of trustees for
6 each developmental center. A majority of the members of each
7 board of trustees shall be consumers and their guardians or family
8 members. Said board shall visit and familiarize themselves with
9 their respective public institutions, and may from time to time
10 make suggestions to the department as to improvements therein,
11 especially such as will make the administration thereof more
12 effective, economical and humane. Said advisory board shall
13 serve without compensation, but shall be reimbursed for all
14 expenses incurred in the performance of their duties.

1 SECTION 2. Said Chapter 19B of the General Laws is hereby
2 further amended by striking section 11 and inserting in place
3 thereof the following section: —

4 Section 11. There shall be a mental retardation advisory council
5 consisting of fifteen persons to be appointed by the secretary of
6 health and human services, with the approval of the governor, five
7 of whom shall be citizens who are members of the department's
8 mental retardation citizens' advisory committees across the state,

9 and the remaining ten at least five shall be appointed to represent
10 one of the following professions and groups: state level medical,
11 psychological, nursing, educational, social work, occupational
12 therapy, or bar associations, state level associations for mental
13 retardation, industrial and labor groups and the clergy. Upon the
14 expiration of the term of office of any member, his successor shall
15 be appointed for a term of three years. No member shall be
16 appointed to serve more than two consecutive three-year terms.
17 The council shall elect a chairman annually. The council shall
18 serve without compensation, but each member shall be reimbursed
19 by the commonwealth for all expenses incurred in the perfor-
20 mance of his official duties.

21 Said advisory council shall have the following duties:

22 (a) It shall advise the commissioner on policy, program devel-
23 opment and priorities of need in the commonwealth for compre-
24 hensive programs in mental retardation;

25 (b) It shall participate with the department in holding a regular
26 series of public hearings throughout the commonwealth to obtain
27 the views of the citizens concerning the programs of the depart-
28 ment and the needs of the people in mental retardation services;

29 (c) It shall review the annual plans and the proposed annual
30 budget of the department, and shall make recommendations to the
31 commissioner in regard thereto;

32 (d) It shall hold at least three meetings per year and shall con-
33 vene special meetings at the call of the chairman of the council, a
34 majority of the council, or the commissioner.