

HOUSE No. 5557

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, May 2, 1989.

The committee on Education, Arts and Humanities, to whom was referred the petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 3524) of Patricia G. Fiero and other members of the General Court that cities and towns be required to develop a plan to identify the day care needs of student parents, reports recommending that the accompanying bill (House, No. 5557) ought to pass.

For the committee,

BARBARA HILDT.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Eighty-Nine.

AN ACT REQUIRING COMMUNITIES TO DEVELOP A LOCAL PLAN TO IDENTIFY THE DAY CARE NEEDS OF STUDENT PARENTS.

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 71 of the General Laws, as appearing in
2 the 1986 Official Edition, is hereby amended by inserting after
3 section 3 the following section: —

4 Section 3A. Each school district of the Commonwealth shall
5 conduct an assessment of the day care and transportation needs
6 of student parents residing in the school district, and shall develop
7 a community plan to meet identified needs. Those involved with
8 the assessment of need, and the development of a community plan,
9 shall include, but not be limited to, school administrators, faculty
10 and personnel, the school committee, parents, teenage parents,
11 and existing day care providers. A financial feasibility study and
12 evaluation shall be conducted and substantiated as part of the
13 community assessment and plan. The community plan and
14 ensuing proposals to address day care needs shall be submitted
15 to the Commissioner of the Department of Education, and to
16 Senate and House Chairmen of the Joint Committee on
17 Education, Arts and Humanities, before the last day of June,
18 nineteen hundred and eighty-nine.

19 If, as a result of the community assessment of need and resulting
20 plan, it becomes evident that a school-based facility, or a
21 collaborative with neighboring school districts, or with local
22 community-based day care facilities located in proximity to the
23 secondary school, is most feasible, and is the recommendation of
24 the community plan, then school districts are encouraged to
25 establish such facility.

26 Space for a day care facility shall be determined by the school
27 committee or regional school committee, and shall be suitable for
28 the children of teenage parents, during the time the teenage parent

29 is attending classes. Such day care facility shall be in accordance
30 with the licensing regulations and procedures of the Office for
31 Children.

32 If, after the needs of the student parents are met, there remains
33 unfilled slots at the facility, the school administration may seek
34 and accept applications for placement at the facility from the
35 members of the faculty and administration of the school in which
36 the facility is located.

37 Each school district in which the day care facility is located shall
38 provide transportation to such facility for the teenage mother and
39 her child or children.

1 SECTION 2. The commonwealth shall fully reimburse each
2 school district for the cost incurred in developing the community
3 plan required by this act.

