

# HOUSE . . . . . No. 68

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By Mr. Atsalis of Barnstable, petition of Demetrius J. Atsalis relative to requiring the Department of Social Services to provide an information and procedure handbook. Children, Families and Persons with Disabilities.

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## The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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In the Year Two Thousand and Seven.

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AN ACT REQUIRING THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES TO PROVIDE CERTAIN INFORMATION IN CARE AND PROTECTION PROCEEDINGS.

*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 18B of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting
- 2 after section 6A the following section:—
- 3 Section 6B. The department shall develop a handbook explaining
- 4 in detail the process involved in the protection and care of children
- 5 proceedings including but not be limited to the guidelines and proce-
- 6 dures of the department and the legal rights of all parties to such pro-
- 7 ceedings. Such handbook shall be given, at no cost, to all parties
- 8 or the representatives or agents in such proceedings at the initial
- 9 contact.