

# HOUSE . . . . . No. 72

By Mr. Atsalis of Barnstable, petition of Demetrius J. Atsalis relative to establishing a hotline for the use of foster children reporting cases of abuse or mistreatment. Children, Families and Persons with Disabilities.

## The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand and Seven.

AN ACT ESTABLISHING A TOLL FREE HOTLINE FOR THE USE OF FOSTER CHILDREN REPORTING CASES OF ABUSE OR MISTREATMENT.

*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 12 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2004 Offi-  
2 cial Edition, is hereby amended by inserting after section 11L the  
3 following section:—

4 Section 11M. The department of the attorney general, in coopera-  
5 tion with the department of state police, shall establish and maintain  
6 a toll-free hotline, so-called, to receive calls from children being  
7 provided foster care by the department of social services in any type  
8 of setting. The state police shall forthwith investigate any charges of  
9 abuse or mistreatment. All information received shall be considered  
10 confidential but may be shared with appropriate public officers and  
11 agencies.