

HOUSE No. 2048

By Mr. Bradley of Hingham, petition of Garrett J. Bradley and Barbara A. L'Italien that medical and health personnel be directed to report the examination or treatment of patients afflicted with autism to the Department of Public Health. Public Health.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand and Seven.

AN ACT REQUIRING THE REPORTING OF AUTISM BY PERSONS EXAMINING OR TREATING SUCH DISEASE.

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 111 of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting
2 after section 111C the following:—
3 Section 111D. A hospital, physician, intern, physician assistant, a
4 public health nurse or other person who professionally examines or
5 treats a person with Autism shall report such examination or treat-
6 ment to the department of public health in accordance with rules and
7 regulations of the department. Such reports shall be made on forms
8 prescribed by the commissioner and shall be submitted as soon as
9 possible after such examination. The department shall, subject to
10 appropriation, maintain comprehensive records of all reports sub-
11 mitted pursuant to this section. Such reports shall be confidential and
12 shall be released by the department only upon written request of the
13 subject of such report, or his guardian, executor, attorney, or other
14 person designated by said subject in writing. Such reports and
15 records or information contained therein, may also be released by
16 the department to persons authorized by the commissioner to con-
17 duct research studies or to other persons, but no report or record
18 shall be released which allows identification of the subjects of said
19 reports or records. Whoever violates this section shall be punished
20 by a fine of not more than one hundred dollars.