

HOUSE No. 2217

By Mr. Petersen of Marblehead, petition of Douglas W. Petersen and others for legislation to direct the departments of Transitional Assistance, Public Health and Education to institute a program of pregnancy prevention. Public Health.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PETITION OF:

Douglas W. Petersen Kay Khan
David Paul Linsky

In the Year Two Thousand and Seven.

AN ACT RELATIVE TO PREGNANCY PREVENTION.

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. The department of transitional assistance, the
2 department of public health and the department of education are
3 hereby authorized and directed to institute a program for mothers
4 who have received aid under the provisions of Chapter one hundred
5 and eighteen as a result of having become pregnant while unwed.
6 Said program shall hire, train and prepare said mothers for a two
7 year pilot pregnancy prevention program for girls and/or boys in
8 participating public schools and/or programs directed at youth and
9 young adults to educate them as to the adverse social and economic
10 consequences of being an unwed mother. Said program shall be
11 based upon principles as found in reality based approaches currently
12 utilized in the department of correction and certain drug prevention
13 and treatment programs. Such participation by said mothers
14 employed by the departments will satisfy the work/community
15 service requirements as mandated by Section one hundred and ten of
16 Chapter five of the acts of nineteen hundred and ninety-five. The
17 department of education shall select an independent research entity
18 to evaluate the results of said pilot program.

1 SECTION 2. The secretary of administration and finance or his or
2 her designee shall hire an independent research entity to conduct a
3 study and investigation of programs and services, in the Common-
4 wealth, presently available in the area of pregnancy prevention and
5 of the degree of coordination of such programs and services. Such
6 study will include, but not be limited to, an analysis of the method-
7 ologies utilized, effectiveness of said programs (including benefit-
8 cost analysis), populations served, and the availability and reliability
9 of program and/or state and municipal evaluation and monitoring of
10 said programs. Programs to be subject to said study shall include,
11 but not be limited to, so-called abstinence-based pregnancy preven-
12 tion programs, traditional counseling based programs, health educa-
13 tion, condom distribution, etc. Said study will compare programs
14 available in the commonwealth with other comparable states.

15 The secretary shall report to the general court the results of such
16 study and investigation, including recommendations for improved
17 pregnancy prevention services, to the clerks of the house and senate
18 on or before the first Wednesday in January, two thousand and
19 seven.