

HOUSE No. 3759

By Representatives Barrows of Mansfield and Poirier of North Attleborough, petition of F. Jay Barrows and others for legislation to establish a substance screening program within the Department of Transitional Assistance. Children, Families and Persons with Disabilities.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PETITION OF:

F. Jay Barrows	Donald F. Humason, Jr.
Elizabeth A. Poirier	Bradford Hill
Richard J. Ross	Susan Williams Gifford
Geraldo Alicea	Todd M. Smola

In the Year Two Thousand and Seven.

AN ACT RELATIVE TO PUBLIC ASSISTANCE SUBSTANCE SCREENING.

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 shall
2 establish a program for random drug testing persons receiving
3 public assistance, not inclusive to food stamps. This program shall
4 be applied only to individual(s) who hold prior convictions on any
5 drug related charge. This includes but is not limited to drug posses-
6 sion and intent to distribute.

1 SECTION 2. The Department of Transitional Assistance shall
2 provide suitable remedies to individuals with positive drug tests.
3 The department shall also develop strategies to help ensure that par-
4 ticipants receiving transitional assistance are drug-free. Individuals
5 who do not comply with the rehabilitation recommendations set
6 forth by the department of transitional assistance may face a suspen-
7 sion of their benefits.

1 SECTION 3. The Department of Transitional Assistance shall
2 collect, record, and publish statistics relating to those individuals
3 who collect public assistance and test positive for substances for
4 which they do not have a prescription.