

HOUSE No. 3838

By Ms. L'Italien of Andover, petition of Barbara A. L'Italien and others relative to establishing a pilot program for adults with Asperger Syndrome and other autism spectrum disorders. Children, Families and Persons with Disabilities.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PETITION OF:

Barbara A. L'Italien	Denise Provost
Susan C. Fargo	Robert L. Rice, Jr.
Jennifer M. Callahan	Joseph R. Driscoll
Garrett J. Bradley	James B. Eldridge
William Lantigua	William N. Brownsberger
Kathi-Anne Reinstein	Louis L. Kafka
Matthew C. Patrick	Tom Sannicandro
Scott P. Brown	Rachel Kaprielian
Barry R. Finegold	Steven A. Tolman
David Paul Linsky	John J. Binienda
John P. Fresolo	Richard J. Ross
David M. Torrisi	John D. Keenan
Stephen R. Canessa	Kay Khan
Edward M. Augustus, Jr.	Thomas P. Conroy
Robert K. Coughlin	Thomas J. Calter
Carl M. Sciortino, Jr.	Steven M. Walsh
Alice Hanlon Peisch	

In the Year Two Thousand and Seven.

AN ACT ESTABLISHING A PILOT PROGRAM FOR ADULTS WITH ASPERGER SYNDROME AND AUTISM.

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 6 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2004 Official
- 2 Edition, is hereby amended, by inserting after section 78A, the
- 3 following section:—
- 4 78B. The commissioner of the Massachusetts rehabilitation com-
- 5 mission shall establish a 2 year pilot program for 25 adults with
- 6 Asperger syndrome or other autism spectrum disorders without
- 7 mental retardation.

8 The commission will establish an advisory board of community
9 professionals, including a consumer with Asperger's syndrome, a
10 representative from the Asperger's association of New England, a
11 state representative, a state senator and commission staff to advise
12 and evaluate and provide technical assistance to the project. The
13 advisory board shall meet quarterly.

14 The program shall provide services which lead to paid,
15 customized, sustainable employment. Services will include post-
16 employment and re-employment support as needed. The program
17 will supplement existing commission funding for individuals with
18 Asperger's syndrome. These supports may include but are not
19 limited to: career assessment and counseling; job development; job
20 placement; job coaching; employment training; on-the-job support;
21 case management and funding to purchase adjunct supports and
22 services.

23 A request for proposals for this program shall be issued within 60
24 days of the enactment. Within one year of the program start a
25 preliminary outcome report with future recommendations shall be
26 presented to the clerk of the house of representatives. A final report
27 at the end of the 2 year pilot shall be submitted with recommenda-
28 tions for sustainability, replication and modifications.