

SENATE NO. 94

AN ACT TO ASSESS THE IMPACT OF THE PUBLIC WELFARE SYSTEM ON THE HEALTH AND WELL-BEING OF CHILDREN

*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 Public Health, in conjunction with other child and family-serving
2 agencies, shall conduct an annual child assessment as part of a child surveillance study on the impact
3 of the public welfare system on the health and well-being of the children and youth (birth through age
4 18) of the Commonwealth. Said child health assessment shall include but not be limited to: the
5 measure and assessment of nutritional status (through height and weight measurements); birth
6 outcomes status (especially birthweights); poverty status; school readiness status and safety status
7 (including injury prevalence rates and hospitalization rates) of children and youth in the
8 Commonwealth. Said annual child health assessment statement shall be submitted to the House and
9 Senate Ways and Means Committees, the Human Services Committee, the Health Care Committee,
10 the Educational Committee, and the Massachusetts Legislative Children's Caucus April 1, of each
11 year.