

SENATE NO. 1156

AN ACT REQUIRING A STATE ZONING GUIDE FOR SOCIAL SERVICE AGENCIES AND MUNICIPALITIES

*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 general court finds that:

2 the commonwealth has the responsibility to help municipalities implement zoning law;

3 (b) municipalities lack an uniformed guide for implementing zoning law;

4 (c) social service agencies and municipalities often are not communicating and coordinating
5 well;

6 (d) therefore the general court wishes to require preparation of a comprehensive guide to
7 municipal zoning, for use by municipalities and social service agencies for purposes of siting.

8 SECTION 2. The secretary of the Executive Office of Health and Human Services, in consultation
9 with other executive agencies including but not limited to the department of the attorney general, the
10 executive office of public safety, the department of housing and community development and the
11 office of commonwealth development, shall develop a comprehensive guide for municipal zoning

12 under section 3 of chapter 40A of the General Laws and other state law and federal law, for use by
13 municipalities and social service agencies.

14 SECTION 3. The secretary shall consider issues related to federal and state law, constitutional issues,
15 state and federal case law, and practices of other states and commonwealths in developing a
16 comprehensive guide for siting of social service agencies, and municipalities including information
17 regarding all applicable federal and state laws and regulations and best practices pertaining to the
18 siting of facilities within which services funded by the commonwealth are delivered.

19 SECTION 4. The secretary shall issue an interim report to the house and senate committees on ways
20 and means, the joint committee on children and families, the joint committee on mental health and
21 substance abuse, and the joint committee on municipalities and regional government within 60 days of
22 enactment.

23 SECTION 5. The secretary shall develop the guide required by this act within 120 days after the
24 effective date of this act.

