

# SENATE, No. 2177

## The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

IN THE YEAR OF TWO THOUSAND AND SEVEN

### AN ACT TO CONTINUE THE SAFE PLACEMENT OF NEWBORN INFANTS

*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. Chapter 119 of the General Laws is hereby amended in Section 39 ½ by  
2 inserting at the end thereof the following paragraph:-

3 The department of social services, in conjunction with a designee of the juvenile court,  
4 the probate and family court, the center for adoption research at the University of  
5 Massachusetts, Massachusetts Families for Kids, Massachusetts Children's Trust Fund,  
6 Massachusetts Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children, Alliance on Teen  
7 Pregnancy and the department of early care and education, shall report every two years  
8 on the overall effectiveness of the program of voluntary placement of newborn infants  
9 established pursuant to this section. The report shall include, but not be limited to, the  
10 following: (1) an analysis of the act's effectiveness in decreasing the number of newborns  
11 that are abandoned in an unsafe manner in the commonwealth; (2) the department's  
12 success or failure in permanently placing in the adoption process any newborn placed

13 with a designated facility pursuant to this act; (3) the average length of time that  
14 newborns remain in foster care after being so placed; (4) any issues arising from the  
15 termination of parental rights following the placement of a newborn pursuant to this act;  
16 (5) the success or failure of any public information campaign implemented by the  
17 department pursuant to this act; (6) any increased administrative burdens that may be  
18 placed upon any department or agency of the commonwealth as a result of this section;  
19 (7) issues with regard to the eligibility of any newborn infant placed pursuant to this act  
20 for federal entitlements such as foster care or adoption subsidies under Title IV-E of the  
21 United State Social Security Act or any other applicable federal law; and (8) the  
22 frequency or infrequency with which a parent placing a newborn at a designated facility  
23 supplies the facility with the information sought by the facility pursuant to the fourth  
24 paragraph of this section and any negative effects the lack of medical or background  
25 information on the child or parents may have had on facilitating the temporary or  
26 permanent placement of the child through the foster care or adoption process. The report,  
27 including any legislative recommendations, shall be submitted to the joint committee on  
28 children, families and persons with disabilities and the house and senate committees on  
29 ways and means on December 1, 2010 and not later than December 1 of each even  
30 numbered year thereafter.

31 SECTION 2. Section 2 of Chapter 227 of the Acts of 2004 is amended by striking out the  
32 words 'June 30, 2007' and replacing it with the words 'December 1, 2008'.

33 SECTION 3. Section 3 of Chapter 227 of the Acts of 2004 is hereby repealed.