

HOUSE No. 1261

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Demetrius J. Atsalis

To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in General Court assembled:

The undersigned legislators and/or citizens respectfully petition for the passage of the accompanying bill:

An Act relative to establishing criminal liability for certain actions of employees of the Department of Social Services.

PETITION OF:

NAME:

Demetrius J. Atsalis

DISTRICT/ADDRESS:

Second Barnstable

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION
SEE HOUSE, NO. 1300 OF 2007-2008.]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand and Nine

AN ACT RELATIVE TO ESTABLISHING CRIMINAL LIABILITY FOR CERTAIN ACTIONS OF EMPLOYEES OF THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES..

*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 51B of chapter 119 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2006 Official Edition, is hereby
2 amended by adding the following paragraph:—

3 Any employee of the department shall be liable for criminal prosecution for child endangerment by the act of
4 screening out any report for abuse or neglect received under section 51A brought against a foster home or residential
5 placement where the department has placed a child without referral to law enforcement.

6 Such employee may also face administrative sanctions in the form of suspension, termination or revocation of
7 license.