

SENATE No. 1401

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Jason M. Lewis

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 adoption of the accompanying bill:

An Act to enhance hospital care for those with autism and intellectual and developmental disabilities.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	
<i>Jason M. Lewis</i>	<i>Fifth Middlesex</i>	
<i>Sean Garballey</i>	<i>23rd Middlesex</i>	<i>1/26/2023</i>
<i>Angelo J. Puppolo, Jr.</i>	<i>12th Hampden</i>	<i>2/2/2023</i>
<i>Michael O. Moore</i>	<i>Second Worcester</i>	<i>2/2/2023</i>
<i>Michael D. Brady</i>	<i>Second Plymouth and Norfolk</i>	<i>2/3/2023</i>
<i>Jack Patrick Lewis</i>	<i>7th Middlesex</i>	<i>2/7/2023</i>
<i>Patrick M. O'Connor</i>	<i>First Plymouth and Norfolk</i>	<i>2/8/2023</i>
<i>Carmine Lawrence Gentile</i>	<i>13th Middlesex</i>	<i>2/10/2023</i>
<i>James B. Eldridge</i>	<i>Middlesex and Worcester</i>	<i>2/13/2023</i>
<i>Bruce E. Tarr</i>	<i>First Essex and Middlesex</i>	<i>2/21/2023</i>
<i>Bradley H. Jones, Jr.</i>	<i>20th Middlesex</i>	<i>2/23/2023</i>

SENATE No. 1401

By Mr. Lewis, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 1401) of Jason M. Lewis, Sean Garballey, Angelo J. Puppolo, Jr., Michael O. Moore and other members of the General Court for legislation to increase current medical providers' knowledge about autism in order to improve treatment. Public Health.

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION
SEE SENATE, NO. 1469 OF 2021-2022.]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

—————
**In the One Hundred and Ninety-Third General Court
(2023-2024)**
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An Act to enhance hospital care for those with autism and intellectual and developmental disabilities.

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. Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, within one year
2 of the date of enactment, the executive office of health and human services shall create and
3 maintain an integrated state plan to develop training and education as well as standards of care
4 by appropriate healthcare providers related to the diagnosis, treatment, and care of patients with
5 intellectual and developmental disabilities, including autism spectrum disorders and those with
6 intersecting marginalized identities. The plan should include implementation steps and
7 recommendations from the advisory committee on intellectual and developmental disabilities
8 that includes, but is not limited to: (1) continuing education requirements for applicable
9 healthcare providers related to diagnosis, treatment, and care of patients with intellectual and

10 developmental disabilities, including autism spectrum disorders and those with intersecting
11 marginalized identities; (2) implementation of a strategy for the adoption of standards for
12 improving assessment and diagnosis of intellectual and developmental disabilities, including
13 autism spectrum disorders and those with intersecting marginalized identities, for patients during
14 routine outpatient primary care examinations; and (3) coordination with applicable state
15 licensure boards, as recommended by the advisory committee on intellectual and developmental
16 disabilities, the adoption of appropriate continuing education requirements related to intellectual
17 and developmental disabilities, including autism spectrum disorders and those with intersecting
18 marginalized identities, as part of licensure renewals.

19 Within six months of the date of enactment, there is hereby established an advisory
20 committee on intellectual and developmental disabilities, including autism spectrum disorders
21 and those with intersecting marginalized identities. Said advisory committee shall be comprised
22 of the following experts: (i) a designee of the secretary of health and human services; (ii) a
23 designee of the commissioner of public health; (iii) two health care providers with expertise in
24 the diagnosis, treatment, and care of patients with intellectual and developmental disabilities,
25 including autism spectrum disorders and those with intersecting marginalized identities; (iv) two
26 patient advocates or family members of those with intellectual and developmental disabilities,
27 including autism spectrum disorders and those with intersecting marginalized identities; and (iv)
28 five statewide trade organizations that include the Arc of Massachusetts, the Massachusetts
29 Health and Hospital Association, the Massachusetts Medical Society, and Massachusetts
30 Psychiatric Society, and the Massachusetts Psychological Association. The advisory council
31 shall develop recommendations for statewide standards for healthcare professionals regarding
32 diagnosis, treatment, and care for patients with intellectual and developmental disabilities,

33 including but not limited to, autism spectrum disorders and those with intersecting marginalized
34 identities. Said standards shall include recommendations for training of healthcare providers,
35 including but not limited to, physicians, psychologists, psychiatrists, physician assistants,
36 registered nurses, and advanced practice registered nurses.