

SENATE No. 2211

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the One Hundred and Eighty-Ninth General Court
(2015-2016)

SENATE, Thursday, April 7, 2016

The committee on Public Health to whom was referred the petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 1179) of Barbara L'Italien, Angelo J. Puppolo, Jr., Tom Sannicandro, Marjorie C. Decker and other members of the General Court for legislation to support individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities; (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 1180) of Barbara L'Italien, Angelo J. Puppolo, Jr., Carolyn C. Dykema, Marjorie C. Decker and other members of the General Court for legislation to increase current medical providers' knowledge about autism in order to improve the treatment individuals with autism receive in medical settings; and (accompanied by bill, House, No. 1932) of Carolyn C. Dykema and others relative to the training of persons supporting individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities,- reports the accompanying bill (Senate, No. 2211).

For the committee,
Jason M. Lewis

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**In the One Hundred and Eighty-Ninth General Court
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An Act supporting individuals with 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. Chapter 17 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2014 Official Edition,
2 is hereby amended by adding the following section:-

3 Section 21. Operation House Call

4 Voluntary training and accreditation program to be used in medical schools, nursing
5 schools, and other postsecondary education

6 (a) As used in this section, the following words shall have the following meanings, unless
7 the context clearly requires otherwise:

8 “certified training program” a voluntary training and accreditation program, accredited by
9 the department pursuant to this section, for medical professionals focusing on instruction of best
10 practices for the treatment and care of patients with intellectual and developmental disabilities,
11 including autism spectrum disorders

12 “department” the department of public health

13 “director” the director of the department of family health and nutrition, within the
14 department of public health

15 “Operation House Call” an existing program, developed by The Arc of Massachusetts,
16 that shall serve as the baseline training model

17 “school” any institution of higher education providing a course of study for students in
18 medicine or related fields

19 (b) In conjunction with the department of developmental services, and the Arc of
20 Massachusetts, the department shall establish and provide for the administration of a voluntary
21 certified training program for:

22 (i) medical schools seeking certification under subsection (d)

23 (ii) nursing schools seeking certification under subsection (d)

24 (iii) dental schools seeking certification under subsection (d)

25 (iv) other institutions of higher education with a course of study for medical
26 practitioners, including but not limited to physicians assistants, dieticians, nutritionists, physical
27 therapists, dental hygienists, allied mental health and human service professionals seeking
28 certification under subsection (d)

29 (c) The certified program established pursuant to this section shall:

30 (i) be structured based upon Operation House Call

31 (ii) be offered to participating students on a voluntary basis that is separate from
32 their required course of study

33 (iii) maintain recognized standards and practices that:

34 (A) uphold industry standards for instructing healthcare professionals on
35 best practices for the treatment and care for patients with individuals with intellectual and
36 developmental disabilities, including but not limited to autism spectrum disorders;

37 (B) include didactic classroom instruction, experiential learning, and
38 online learning, totaling not less than 6 hours.

39 (d) The department shall certify that a school offers a certified training program, as
40 described in subsection (c), upon receipt and review that:

41 (i) the school has successfully delivered the certified training program to a
42 sufficient number of participating students as mutually agreed upon by the institution and the
43 provider of the training; and

44 (ii) that the program meets the minimum standards and practices, as provided in
45 subsection (c)

46 (e) The director shall periodically evaluate the quality of training being provided to
47 schools seeking certification and the integrity and efficacy of the accreditation program.

48 (f) The department shall prepare, publish and disseminate a list of schools certified
49 pursuant to this section; provided, however, that the list shall be updated annually. The list shall
50 be published in a location that is accessible to prospective students seeking to apply to attend
51 schools in the medical field or related fields.