HOUSE DOCKET, NO. FILED ON: 1/8/2009

**HOUSE . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . No.**

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The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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PRESENTED BY:

**Demetrius J. Atsalis**

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*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 requiring the Department of Social Services to provide certain information in care and protection proceedings .

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

PETITION OF:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Name: | District/Address: |
| Demetrius J. Atsalis | Second Barnstable |

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION
SEE HOUSE, NO. 68 OF 2007-2008.]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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**In the Year Two Thousand and Nine**

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

An Act requiring the Department of Social Services to provide certain information in care and protection proceedings .

 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:*

 SECTION 1.  Chapter 18B of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2006 Official Edition, is hereby amended by inserting after section 6A the following section:—
            Section 6B. The department shall develop a handbook explaining in detail the process involved in the protection and care of children proceedings including but not be limited to the guidelines and procedures of the department and the legal rights of all parties to such proceedings. Such handbook shall be given, at no cost, to all parties or the representatives or agents in such proceedings at the initial contact.