

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

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**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**

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**In the Year Two Thousand and Nine**

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

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