

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

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**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

PRESENTED BY:

**Barbara A. L'Italien**

*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 establishing an autism commission.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:
Barbara A. L'Italien	18th Essex

# The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand and Nine

## AN ACT ESTABLISHING AN AUTISM COMMISSION.

*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. There shall be a special commission to investigate and study services and supports for  
2 individuals with autistic spectrum disorders, which shall include, but not be limited to, Asperger's  
3 syndrome, high functioning autism, and pervasive development disorder not otherwise specified and  
4 who do not therefore have a condition that meets the definition of mental retardation as defined in  
5 1992 by the American association of mental retardation. The commission shall consist of: a member of  
6 the house of representatives, appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives and a member  
7 of the senate appointed by the president of the senate, a member of the house of representatives  
8 appointed by the minority leader of the house of representatives and a member of the senate  
9 appointed by the minority leader of the senate, a representative of the governor; the secretary of the  
10 executive office of health and human services or the secretary's designee; the commissioner of the  
11 department of mental retardation, or the commissioner's designee; the commissioner of the  
12 department of mental health, or the commissioner's designee; the commissioner of the department of  
13 education, or the commissioner's designee; 8 of whom shall be named by the Statewide Autism group; 2  
14 of whom shall be named by the Asperger's Association of New England; and 2 of whom shall be named  
15 by the Autism Society of America, Massachusetts Chapter.