

HOUSE No.

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 a pilot program for adults with Asperger Syndrome and Autism.

PETITION OF:

NAME:

Barbara A. L'Italien

DISTRICT/ADDRESS:

18th Essex

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION
SEE HOUSE, NO. 3838 OF 2007-2008.]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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In the Year Two Thousand and Nine
—————

AN ACT ESTABLISHING A PILOT PROGRAM FOR ADULTS WITH ASPERGER SYNDROME AND AUTISM.

*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 6 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2006 Official Edition, is hereby amended,
2 by inserting after section 78A, the following section:-

3 Section 78B. The commissioner of the Massachusetts rehabilitation commission shall establish a 2 year
4 pilot program for 25 adults with Asperger's syndrome or other autism spectrum disorders without
5 mental retardation.

6 The commission will establish an advisory board of community professionals, including a consumer with
7 Asperger's syndrome, a representative from the Asperger's Association of New England, a state
8 representative, a state senator and commission staff to advise and evaluate and provide technical
9 assistance to the project. The advisory board shall meet quarterly.

10 The program shall provide services which lead to paid, customized, sustainable employment. Services
11 will include post-employment and re-employment support as needed. The program will supplement
12 existing commission funding for individuals with Asperger's syndrome. These supports may include but
13 are not limited to: career assessment and counseling; job development; job placement; job coaching;
14 employment training; on-the-job support; case management and funding to purchase adjunct supports
15 and services.

16 A request for proposals for this program shall be issued within 60 days of the enactment. Within one
17 year of the program start a preliminary outcome report with future recommendations shall be

18 presented to the clerk of the House of Representatives. A final report at the end of the 2 year pilot shall
19 be submitted with recommendations for sustainability, replication and modifications.