

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 01528**

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The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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PRESENTED BY:

*Tom Sannicandro*

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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 Relative to Down Syndrome.

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PETITION OF:

NAME:

*Tom Sannicandro*

DISTRICT/ADDRESS:

*7th Middlesex*

# HOUSE . . . . . No. 01528

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By Mr. Sannicandro of Ashland, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 1528) of Tom Sannicandro relative to Down Syndrome genetic test results. Public Health.

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## The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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In the Year Two Thousand Eleven  
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An Act Relative to Down Syndrome.

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

- 1 An act relative to Down syndrome genetic test results.
- 2 SECTION 1. Chapter 111 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2008 Official Edition, is
- 3 hereby amended by inserting after section 70G the following section:-
- 4 Section 70H.
- 5 (a) For the purposes of this section, the term “Down syndrome” shall mean a chromosomal
- 6 condition caused by an error in cell division that results in the presence of an extra whole or
- 7 partial copy of chromosome 21. Any facility, as defined in section 70E, physician, health care
- 8 provider, nurse midwife or genetic counselor who renders prenatal care, postnatal care or genetic
- 9 counseling, upon receipt of a positive test result from a test for Down syndrome, shall be able to
- 10 provide the expectant or new parent with information provided by the department under
- 11 subsection (b).

12 (b) the department shall make available to any person who renders prenatal care, postnatal care  
13 or genetic counseling of parents who receive a prenatal or postnatal diagnosis of Down syndrome  
14 the following: (1) up-to-date, evidence-based, written information about Down syndrome that  
15 has been reviewed by medical experts and national Down syndrome organizations. The written  
16 information should include physical, developmental, educational, and psychosocial outcomes,  
17 life expectancy, clinical course, and intellectual and functional development and treatment  
18 options; and (2) contact information regarding First Call programs and support services,  
19 including information hotlines specific to Down syndrome, resource centers or clearinghouses,  
20 national and local Down syndrome organizations such as the Massachusetts Down Syndrome  
21 Congress, and other education and support programs. The department may also make such  
22 information available to any other person who has received a positive test result from a test for  
23 Down syndrome.

24 (c) Information provided under this section shall be culturally and linguistically appropriate as  
25 needed by women receiving a positive prenatal diagnosis or the family of a child receiving a  
26 postnatal diagnosis of Down syndrome;.

27 (d) Nothing in this section shall limit the rights of any person under section 70G.