

**SENATE . . . . . No. 1469**

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

PRESENTED BY:

***Jason M. Lewis***

*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 adoption of the accompanying bill:

An Act An act to enhance hospital care for those with autism and intellectual and developmental disabilities.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	
<i>Jason M. Lewis</i>	<i>Fifth Middlesex</i>	
<i>Michael O. Moore</i>	<i>Second Worcester</i>	<i>3/8/2021</i>
<i>Anne M. Gobi</i>	<i>Worcester, Hampden, Hampshire and Middlesex</i>	<i>3/12/2021</i>
<i>David F. DeCoste</i>	<i>5th Plymouth</i>	<i>3/23/2021</i>
<i>Walter F. Timilty</i>	<i>Norfolk, Bristol and Plymouth</i>	<i>3/29/2021</i>
<i>Steven Ultrino</i>	<i>33rd Middlesex</i>	<i>3/31/2021</i>
<i>Michael D. Brady</i>	<i>Second Plymouth and Bristol</i>	<i>3/31/2021</i>
<i>Mathew J. Muratore</i>	<i>1st Plymouth</i>	<i>3/31/2021</i>
<i>Thomas M. Stanley</i>	<i>9th Middlesex</i>	<i>3/31/2021</i>
<i>Joanne M. Comerford</i>	<i>Hampshire, Franklin and Worcester</i>	<i>4/2/2021</i>
<i>Susan L. Moran</i>	<i>Plymouth and Barnstable</i>	<i>4/7/2021</i>

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By Mr. Lewis, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 1469) of Jason M. Lewis, Michael O. Moore, Anne M. Gobi, David F. DeCoste and other members of the General Court for legislation to increase current medical providers' knowledge about autism in order to improve treatment. Public Health.

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[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION  
SEE SENATE, NO. 1287 OF 2019-2020.]

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

—————  
**In the One Hundred and Ninety-Second General Court  
(2021-2022)**  
—————

An Act An act to enhance hospital care for those with autism and intellectual and developmental disabilities.

*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. Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, within one year  
2 of the date of enactment, the executive office of health and human services shall create and  
3 maintain an integrated state plan to develop training and education as well as standards of care  
4 by appropriate healthcare providers related to the diagnosis, treatment, and care of patients with  
5 intellectual and developmental disabilities, including autism spectrum disorders and those with  
6 intersecting marginalized identities. The plan should include implementation steps and  
7 recommendations from the advisory committee on intellectual and developmental disabilities  
8 that includes, but is not limited to: (1) continuing education requirements for applicable  
9 healthcare providers related to diagnosis, treatment, and care of patients with intellectual and

10 developmental disabilities, including autism spectrum disorders and those with intersecting  
11 marginalized identities; (2) implementation of a strategy for the adoption of standards for  
12 improving assessment and diagnosis of intellectual and developmental disabilities, including  
13 autism spectrum disorders and those with intersecting marginalized identities, for patients during  
14 routine outpatient primary care examinations; and (3) coordination with applicable state  
15 licensure boards, as recommended by the advisory committee on intellectual and developmental  
16 disabilities, the adoption of appropriate continuing education requirements related to intellectual  
17 and developmental disabilities, including autism spectrum disorders and those with intersecting  
18 marginalized identities, as part of licensure renewals.

19         Within six months of the date of enactment, there is hereby established an advisory  
20 committee on intellectual and developmental disabilities, including autism spectrum disorders  
21 and those with intersecting marginalized identities. Said advisory committee shall be comprised  
22 of the following experts: (i) a designee of the secretary of health and human services; (ii) a  
23 designee of the commissioner of public health; (iii) two health care providers with expertise in  
24 the diagnosis, treatment, and care of patients with intellectual and developmental disabilities,  
25 including autism spectrum disorders and those with intersecting marginalized identities; (iv) two  
26 patient advocates or family members of those with intellectual and developmental disabilities,  
27 including autism spectrum disorders and those with intersecting marginalized identities; and (v)  
28 five statewide trade organizations that include the Arc of Massachusetts, the Massachusetts  
29 Health and Hospital Association, the Massachusetts Medical Society, and Massachusetts  
30 Psychiatric Society, and the Massachusetts Psychological Association. The advisory council  
31 shall develop recommendations for statewide standards for healthcare professionals regarding  
32 diagnosis, treatment, and care for patients with intellectual and developmental disabilities,

33 including but not limited to, autism spectrum disorders and those with intersecting marginalized  
34 identities. Said standards shall include recommendations for training of healthcare providers,  
35 including but not limited to, physicians, psychologists, psychiatrists, physician assistants,  
36 registered nurses, and advanced practice registered nurses.