

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 116**

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**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

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**In the Year Two Thousand Nine**  
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An Act requiring the Department of Social Services to provide certain information in care and protection proceedings ..

*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 18B of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2006 Official  
2 Edition, is hereby amended by inserting after section 6A the following section:—           Section  
3 6B. The department shall develop a handbook explaining in detail the process involved in the  
4 protection and care of children proceedings including but not be limited to the guidelines and  
5 procedures of the department and the legal rights of all parties to such proceedings. Such  
6 handbook shall be given, at no cost, to all parties or the representatives or agents in such  
7 proceedings at the initial contact.