

HOUSE No. 153

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand Nine

An Act to support and increase the number of qualified providers of intensive intervention providers for children with autism spectrum disorders..

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. The secretary of health and human services and the secretary of education
2 shall collaborate with parents of children with autism, advocates, educators, service providers
3 and others with expertise in meeting the needs of children with autism spectrum disorder to study
4 and develop recommendations for supporting and increasing the number of qualified providers of
5 intensive intervention services including but not limited to Applied Behavior Analysis, Floor
6 Time and Relationship Development Intervention for children with autism spectrum disorder.
7 The secretary of health and human services and the secretary of education shall submit a joint
8 report to the joint committee on children, families and persons with disabilities, the joint
9 committee of health care finance, the joint committee on higher education and the joint
10 committee on education, describing said recommendations no later than January 1, 2010. The
11 report shall consider a full range of options for supporting and increasing the number of qualified
12 providers available to provide intensive intervention services for children on the autism
13 spectrum, including but not limited to: collaboration with Massachusetts' universities, colleges
14 and community colleges; loan forgiveness programs; scholarships to post-secondary students

15 who work as providers and pursue a related field of study; and outreach efforts to parents of
16 children with autism spectrum disorder to recruit parents interested in working as providers of
17 services and strategies to increase the number of providers qualified to serve children with
18 autism spectrum disorder who are from linguistically and culturally diverse families and
19 communities.