

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 155**

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The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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**In the Year Two Thousand Nine**  
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An Act establishing an autism commission..

*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. There shall be a special commission to investigate and study services and  
2 supports for individuals with autistic spectrum disorders, which shall include, but not be limited  
3 to, Asperger's syndrome, high functioning autism, and pervasive development disorder not  
4 otherwise specified and who do not therefore have a condition that meets the definition of mental  
5 retardation as defined in 1992 by the American association of mental retardation. The  
6 commission shall consist of: a member of the house of representatives, appointed by the speaker  
7 of the house of representatives and a member of the senate appointed by the president of the  
8 senate, a member of the house of representatives appointed by the minority leader of the house of  
9 representatives and a member of the senate appointed by the minority leader of the senate, a  
10 representative of the governor; the secretary of the executive office of health and human services  
11 or the secretary's designee; the commissioner of the department of mental retardation, or the  
12 commissioner's designee; the commissioner of the department of mental health, or the  
13 commissioner's designee; the commissioner of the department of education, or the  
14 commissioner's designee; 8 of whom shall be named by the Statewide Autism group; 2 of whom

- 15 shall be named by the Asperger's Association of New England; and 2 of whom shall be named
- 16 by the Autism Society of America, Massachusetts Chapter.