

HOUSE No. 155

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand Nine

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.