

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 156**

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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 a pilot program for adults with Asperger Syndrome and Autism..

*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 6 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2006 Official Edition,  
2 is hereby amended, by inserting after section 78A, the following section:-

3 Section 78B. The commissioner of the Massachusetts rehabilitation commission shall  
4 establish a 2 year pilot program for 25 adults with Asperger’s syndrome or other autism  
5 spectrum disorders without mental retardation.

6 The commission will establish an advisory board of community professionals, including a  
7 consumer with Asperger’s syndrome, a representative from the Asperger’s Association of New  
8 England, a state representative, a state senator and commission staff to advise and evaluate and  
9 provide technical assistance to the project. The advisory board shall meet quarterly.

10 The program shall provide services which lead to paid, customized, sustainable  
11 employment. Services will include post-employment and re-employment support as needed. The  
12 program will supplement existing commission funding for individuals with Asperger’s  
13 syndrome. These supports may include but are not limited to: career assessment and counseling;

14 job development; job placement; job coaching; employment training; on-the-job support; case  
15 management and funding to purchase adjunct supports and services.

16 A request for proposals for this program shall be issued within 60 days of the enactment.  
17 Within one year of the program start a preliminary outcome report with future recommendations  
18 shall be presented to the clerk of the House of Representatives. A final report at the end of the 2  
19 year pilot shall be submitted with recommendations for sustainability, replication and  
20 modifications.