

HOUSE No. 1957

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Sean Garballey

To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in General Court assembled:

The undersigned legislators and/or citizens respectfully petition for the adoption of the accompanying bill:

An Act improving outcomes for transition age youth.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	DATE ADDED:
<i>Sean Garballey</i>	<i>23rd Middlesex</i>	<i>1/19/2017</i>
<i>Michael J. Barrett</i>	<i>Third Middlesex</i>	
<i>José F. Tosado</i>	<i>9th Hampden</i>	
<i>John J. Lawn, Jr.</i>	<i>10th Middlesex</i>	
<i>Thomas M. Stanley</i>	<i>9th Middlesex</i>	
<i>James M. Cantwell</i>	<i>4th Plymouth</i>	
<i>Chris Walsh</i>	<i>6th Middlesex</i>	
<i>Marjorie C. Decker</i>	<i>25th Middlesex</i>	
<i>James B. Eldridge</i>	<i>Middlesex and Worcester</i>	

HOUSE No. 1957

By Mr. Garballey of Arlington, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 1957) of Sean Garballey and others relative to the use and reporting of living arrangements of certain minors under the care of the Department of Children and Families. Children, Families and Persons with Disabilities.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

**In the One Hundred and Ninetieth General Court
(2017-2018)**

An Act improving outcomes for transition age youth.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1 Chapter 119 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2014 Official Edition, is hereby
2 amended by adding the following section:-

3 Section 86. (a) The department shall report on the number of youth, under 17 years old,
4 who have a service plan goal of another planned permanency living arrangement. Said report
5 shall be provided to the President of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the
6 Joint Committee on Children, Families and Persons with Disabilities, and the clerks of the Senate
7 and the House of Representatives annually on July 1, beginning on July 1, 2017. Said report shall
8 also be posted to the department’s website annually on July 1, beginning on July 1, 2017. This
9 report may be included in the department’s quarterly reports if posted in accordance with this
10 annual timeline.

11 (b) The department shall reduce its reliance on another planned permanent living
12 arrangement as a service plan goal for a child or youth under 17 years old by 2 per cent by July
13 1, 2018, and 2 per cent annually by July 1 of each year until the total service plan goal for all
14 consumers in placement is reduced to 5 per cent or fewer of the department's total caseload.

15 (c) The executive office of health and human services, and its child serving agencies,
16 shall continue to convene in furtherance of its transitional planning initiative, whose purpose is
17 to recommend programmatic and regulatory changes that will improve individual transition
18 outcomes for people involved with executive office of health and human services related
19 services, until every youth leaves the care and custody of the commonwealth with a full,
20 effective transition plan which shall include the following: minimum standards which shall be set
21 by the commissioner of the department creating the plan with approval of the minimum
22 standards from the secretary of health and human services and the child advocate; and a
23 connection to a committed adult.