

HOUSE No. 4687

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, May 6, 2020.

The committee on Children, Families and Persons with Disabilities to whom was referred the petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 3221) of Adrian C. Madaro and others relative to funding opportunities offered by the federal Family First Prevention Services Act, reports recommending that the accompanying bill (House, No. 4687) ought to pass.

For the committee,

KAY KHAN.

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**In the One Hundred and Ninety-First General Court
(2019-2020)**

An Act preparing Massachusetts for implementation of the family first act.

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. (a) There shall be established an Interagency Task Force on Family First
2 Act Implementation to begin meeting within 45 days of passage of this act. It shall be chaired by
3 the secretary of the executive office of health and human services and the house and senate
4 chairs of the joint committee on children, families and persons with disabilities. The task force
5 shall consist of the following members: the commissioner of the department of children and
6 families or a designee, the commissioner of the department of early education and care or a
7 designee, the commissioner of the department of public health or a designee, the commissioner
8 of the department of mental health or a designee, a designee from the office of MassHealth, the
9 child advocate or a designee, a designee of the bureau of substance abuse services, a designee of
10 the committee for public counsel services, a designee of the children’s trust, a designee from the
11 judge baker children’s center, a designee from the massachusetts law reform institute, a designee
12 from the children’s league of Massachusetts, 1 member of the unaccompanied homeless youth
13 commission, 1 member of the juvenile justice data and policy board, 1 parent of children
14 currently or formerly in the department of children and families caseload, 1 current or former

15 youth in the department of children and families foster care system, 1 kinship caregiver for
16 children currently or formerly in the department of children and families caseload, 1 front line
17 department of children and families social worker, 1 residential treatment center provider, 1
18 provider for families dealing with substance use disorder, and 3 advocates with expertise in the
19 Massachusetts child welfare system including those representing child welfare provider groups
20 and those not affiliated with child welfare providers. The task force shall consult with other
21 individuals with relevant expertise, including academics, researchers and service providers, as
22 needed.

23 (b) The purpose of this task force shall be to assist the Commonwealth's child welfare
24 system for the implementation of the federal Family First Act. The task force shall meet monthly
25 unless the Chairs determine otherwise. The task force shall, but is not limited to: (i) review all
26 submissions to the federal government required by the family first act or it's guidances; (ii) help
27 prepare and plan for any additional submissions to the federal government required by the family
28 first act or it's guidances; (iii) convene stakeholder meetings to share implementation plans and
29 gather feedback; and (iv) following the submission of all required submission to the federal
30 government make a plan for the development of regulations and release of those regulations out
31 for public comment related to the use of prevention plans as defined by 42 USC §471 (e) (4) (A)
32 within the department of children and families and other areas and departments where new
33 regulations will be needed.

34 (c) That task force shall continue to meet until issuing a final report no later than October
35 1, 2021. The report shall be submitted to the Governor, the Speaker of the House, the Senate
36 President, the House and Senate Committees on Ways and Means and the Clerks of the House
37 and Senate. The final report of the task force shall include, but not be limited to: (i) a study of the

38 fiscal impact of timely and expeditious implementation of the Family First Prevention Services
39 Act on the Commonwealth's funding under Part E of Title IV of the Social Security Act; (ii) a
40 summary of new or amended regulations related to the use of prevention plans as defined by 42
41 USC §471 (e) (4) (A) within the department of children and families and other areas and
42 departments where new regulations will be needed; (iii) a review of and the final submission of
43 the Title IV-E prevention services and programs plan as submitted to the United States
44 Department of Health and Human Services for Family First funding; (iv) definition of what
45 massachusetts has defined as a candidate for care and data on the number of child consumers and
46 adult consumers that would be considered candidates for care; (v) an inventory of all approved
47 evidenced based programs by the federal clearinghouse up until the date of the reports
48 submission; (vi) obstacles and costs to programs seeking approval of evidenced based programs
49 by the federal clearinghouse; (vii) fiscal analysis of the implementation and continuation of the
50 federal first act in the commonwealth including what additional funds will be required from the
51 commonwealth to comply; and (viii) recommendations for draft legislation that will be needed to
52 implement and comply with the federal family first act.

53 (d) The task force may reconvene 1 year after the full implementation of the federal
54 family first act to assess the status of the implementation and preliminary data to show the
55 impact of the federal family first act of the families and children of the Commonwealth. The task
56 force may meet for a maximum of 2 years to study the impact of implementing the federal family
57 first act.