

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 111**

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**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

PRESENTED BY:

*Carolyn C. Dykema*

*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 establishing a pilot program to improve coordination of mental health care for system-involved youth.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	DATE ADDED:
<i>Carolyn C. Dykema</i>	<i>8th Middlesex</i>	<i>1/18/2019</i>
<i>James B. Eldridge</i>	<i>Middlesex and Worcester</i>	<i>1/24/2019</i>
<i>Michael O. Moore</i>	<i>Second Worcester</i>	<i>1/24/2019</i>
<i>James K. Hawkins</i>	<i>2nd Bristol</i>	<i>1/25/2019</i>
<i>Brian M. Ashe</i>	<i>2nd Hampden</i>	<i>1/25/2019</i>
<i>David M. Rogers</i>	<i>24th Middlesex</i>	<i>1/31/2019</i>
<i>Kathleen R. LaNatra</i>	<i>12th Plymouth</i>	<i>2/1/2019</i>

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 111**

By Ms. Dykema of Holliston, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 111) of Carolyn C. Dykema and others relative to establishing a pilot program to improve coordination of mental health care for system-involved youth. Children, Families and Persons with Disabilities.

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

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

An Act establishing a pilot program to improve coordination of mental health care for system-involved 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           (a) Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, the department of youth  
2 services, subject to appropriation, shall establish a pilot program designed to improve the  
3 coordination and continuity of mental health services available to clients of the department of  
4 youth services who are served by multiple agencies.

5           (b) The department of youth services, in consultation with the department of children and  
6 families and the department of mental health, shall allocate funding for each pilot program  
7 participant for comprehensive mental health services in accordance with a formula determined  
8 by the department of youth services; provided, however, in no case shall the allocation be less  
9 than what the participant would have received had he or she not participated in the pilot.

10           (c) For each participant in the pilot program, the department of youth services, in  
11 consultation with, at minimum, the department of children and families, the department of

12 mental health, the participant, and the participant's family, shall develop and administer a  
13 comprehensive individual support plan. In developing each participant's comprehensive  
14 individual support plan, the department shall consider, at minimum, the following: (i) a  
15 coordinated plan of mental health and other supports based on the individual needs of the  
16 participant; (ii) a plan to continue a participant's existing services if he or she transitions from  
17 one placement setting to a placement setting of a different type or in a different location; and (iii)  
18 a plan to utilize community-based supports and providers available to the participant after he or  
19 she is no longer a client of the department or departments. Administration of services identified  
20 in the individual support plan shall be funded using the funding allocated to the participant  
21 pursuant to this section.

22 (d) The department of youth services, in consultation with the department of children and  
23 families and the department of mental health, shall develop criteria for eligibility for the pilot  
24 program. In developing said criteria, the departments shall, at minimum, ensure that the program  
25 includes youth impacted by trauma. The criteria may also include youth within six months of  
26 release from a residential program operated by the department of youth services and or clients  
27 placed in a community-based placement by the department of youth services.

28 (e) The department of youth services, in consultation with the department of children and  
29 families and the department of mental health, may promulgate rules and regulations for the pilot  
30 program.

31 (f) The department of youth services, in consultation with the department of children and  
32 families and the department of mental health, shall use qualitative and quantitative measures to  
33 measure the effectiveness of the program, and shall issue a report with its findings and

34 recommendations to the Chairs of the Joint Committee on Children, Families and Persons with  
35 Disabilities within 1 year of the establishment of the pilot program.

36 (g) The department of youth services, the department of children and families, and the  
37 department of mental health shall enter into a written memorandum of understanding for the  
38 purposes of sharing information in order to effectuate and administer the pilot program. Such  
39 memorandum of understanding shall include provisions to address the privacy of personal  
40 information of program participants.

41 (h) Establishment of said pilot program shall be subject to appropriation. The department  
42 of youth services shall seek to maximize federal financial participation in, or funding or  
43 reimbursement for, the pilot program established pursuant to this section.