

# SENATE . . . . . No. 1287

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## The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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PRESENTED BY:

***Jason M. Lewis***

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*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 creating Autism teams in hospitals.

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PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	
<i>Jason M. Lewis</i>	<i>Fifth Middlesex</i>	
<i>Steven Ultrino</i>	<i>33rd Middlesex</i>	<i>1/28/2019</i>
<i>Mike Connolly</i>	<i>26th Middlesex</i>	<i>1/31/2019</i>
<i>Michael O. Moore</i>	<i>Second Worcester</i>	<i>1/31/2019</i>
<i>Patrick M. O'Connor</i>	<i>Plymouth and Norfolk</i>	<i>1/31/2019</i>
<i>Kay Khan</i>	<i>11th Middlesex</i>	<i>2/4/2019</i>
<i>Jack Patrick Lewis</i>	<i>7th Middlesex</i>	<i>2/4/2019</i>
<i>Marcos A. Devers</i>	<i>16th Essex</i>	<i>2/11/2019</i>
<i>James T. Welch</i>	<i>Hampden</i>	<i>4/18/2019</i>
<i>Paul R. Feeney</i>	<i>Bristol and Norfolk</i>	<i>10/15/2019</i>

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By Mr. Lewis, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 1287) of Jason M. Lewis, Steven Ultrino, Mike Connolly, Michael O. Moore and other members of the General Court for legislation to increase current medical providers' knowledge about autism in order to improve treatment . Public Health.

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[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION  
SEE SENATE, NO. 1221 OF 2017-2018.]

## The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

\_\_\_\_\_  
In the One Hundred and Ninety-First General Court  
(2019-2020)  
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An Act creating Autism teams in hospitals.

*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. Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, within 1 year of  
2   the date of enactment, the executive office of health and human services shall create and  
3   maintain an integrated state plan to develop training and education as well as standards of care  
4   by appropriate healthcare providers related to the diagnosis, treatment, and care of patients with  
5   intellectual and developmental disabilities, including autism spectrum disorders. The plan  
6   should include implementation steps and recommendations from the advisory committee on  
7   intellectual and developmental disabilities that includes, but is not limited to: (1) continuing  
8   education requirements for applicable healthcare providers related to diagnosis, treatment, and  
9   care of patients with intellectual and developmental disabilities, including autism spectrum  
10   disorders; (2) implementation of a strategy for the adoption of standards for improving

assessment and diagnosis of intellectual and developmental disabilities, including autism spectrum disorders, for patients during routine outpatient primary care examinations; and (3) coordination with applicable state licensure boards, as recommended by the advisory committee on intellectual and developmental disabilities, the adoption of appropriate continuing education requirements related to intellectual and developmental disabilities, including autism spectrum disorders, as part of licensure renewals.

Within 6 months of the date of enactment, there is hereby established an advisory committee on intellectual and developmental disabilities, including autism spectrum disorders. Said advisory committee shall be comprised of the following experts: (i) a designee of the secretary of health and human services; (ii) a designee of the commissioner of public health; (iii) 2 health care providers with expertise in the diagnosis, treatment, and care of patients with intellectual and developmental disabilities, including autism spectrum disorders; (iv) 2 patient advocates or family members of those with intellectual and developmental disabilities, including autism spectrum disorders; and (v) 5 statewide trade organizations that include the Arc of Massachusetts, the Massachusetts Health and Hospital Association, the Massachusetts Medical Society, and Massachusetts Psychiatric Society, and the Massachusetts Psychological Association. The advisory council shall develop recommendations for statewide standards for healthcare professionals regarding diagnosis, treatment, and care for patients with intellectual and developmental disabilities, including but not limited to, autism spectrum disorders. Said standards shall include recommendations for training of healthcare providers, including but not limited to, physicians, psychologists, psychiatrists, physician assistants, registered nurses, and advanced practice registered nurses.