SENATE DOCKET, NO. 1256 FILED ON: 2/12/2021

SENATE . . . . . No. 1286

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Cindy F. Friedman

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 relative to a PACT pilot program for children.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:
Cindy F. Friedman	*Fourth Middlesex*

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SENATE . . . . . No. 1286

By Ms. Friedman, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 1286) of Cindy F. Friedman for legislation relative to a PACT pilot program for children. Mental Health, Substance Use and Recovery.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the One Hundred and Ninety-Second General Court
(2021-2022)

An Act relative to a PACT pilot program for children.

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

Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary and subject to appropriation, the department of mental health shall establish a 3-year pilot program of assertive community treatment to treat individuals under the age of 22 who: (1) exhibit symptoms of serious emotional disturbance; (2) demonstrate an inability to consistently use less intensive levels of care in the community; and (3) have functional impairment and a history of difficulty in functioning safely and successfully in the community, school, home, or workplace.

The pilot program shall include mental health services and social service assistance to eligible individuals through a person-centered approach, which may include, but not be limited to: (1) clinical assessment and outreach; (2) medication treatment and outreach; (3) care coordination, including with primary care; (4) symptom management; (5) harm reduction; (6) family services; (7) housing support; and (8) any needs that arise in carrying out the acts of daily living. The pilot program shall include a team-based approach to service delivery and shall tailor

services to the specific needs and acuity of each individual eligible for the program. To the maximum extent possible, the program shall be consistent with the evidence-based practice standards for Assertive Community Treatment as found in SAMHSA's Assertive Community Treatment (ACT) Evidence-Based Practices (EBP) KIT. Services offered through the pilot program shall not be limited to a specific physical location.

The department of mental health shall report not later than 12 months after the effective date of this act and annually thereafter to the house and senate committees on ways and means and the joint committee on mental health, substance use and recovery the progress and results of the pilot program and any identified barriers and challenges to treatment for the aforementioned treatment group.