



UPDATED LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES (JUNE 2024)

Expanding Nicky's Law and Act Updating Terminology and Investigative Practices Related to the Protection of Persons with Disabilities - H4393

Status: in House Ways and Means Committee (HW&MC).

Sponsors: Representative Sean Garballey, Senator Mike Moore, Senator John Keenan

The Arc contacts: Leo Sarkissian and Maura Sullivan

During committee review, Nicky's Law and DPPC Terminology bills were combined to be one powerful bill to expand, strengthen, and update the abuser registry and the language associated with the DPPC.

Hospital Training to Enhance Healthcare for People with Autism and IDD - H172 (carrying S1401)

Status: in HW&MC.

Sponsors: Representative Sean Garballey, Representative Ryan Hamilton, Senator Jason Lewis

The Arc contact: Maura Sullivan

This bill will enhance hospital care for people with autism and intellectual and developmental disabilities, through training, standards of care, and certification requirements. This bill has support from Boston Children's Hospital, Boston Medical Center, and other healthcare organizations. The Arc held a legislative briefing with advocacy partners on May 28.

Autism Police Training Expansion - H2351 / S1568

Status: in HW&MC.

Sponsors: Representative Kay Khan, Senator Mike Moore

The Arc contacts: Maura Sullivan and Jose Lopez

Police training in appropriate interactions with persons on the autism spectrum and other intellectual and developmental disabilities, expanding the mandated cadet training to include veteran officers and correctional officers through in-service training.

Supporting Autistic Drivers through the Blue Envelope Program - S2542 / H3359

Status: passed by the Senate; in HW&MC.

Sponsors: Representative Kay Khan, Representative Mindy Domb, Senator Jo Comerford

This bill will facilitate understanding and better communication between law enforcement and autistic drivers. Autistic drivers can voluntarily request a blue envelope, which attaches to the car's visor. The envelope would hold the driver's license, registration, etc., as well as specific instructions for the police officer on the driver's diagnosis, impairments, triggers, and contact information.

Supported Decision Making (SDM) - H1485 / S109

Sponsors: Representative Mike Finn, Representative Sean Garballey, Senator Joan Lovely

This bill allows certain adults, including those with disabilities to maintain their rights, dignity, and independence by choosing trusted supports to provide assistance making decisions about their lives. SDM is an alternative to guardianship where appropriate.

Katie's Law, Updating Archaic Language - H4396 / S95

Status: in Senate Committee on Rules.

Sponsors: Representative Mike Finn, Representative Sean Garballey, Senator Patricia Jehlen

This bill would strike out certain archaic and outdated words, phrases, and language in our Massachusetts chapter law, e.g. mental retardation, handicapped.

CONFERENCE COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS

ABA Amendment #483

Advocates for Autism of Massachusetts' Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) training amendment for \$100k will pilot a program to provide ABA training for a workforce that requires more training to serve persons with complex behavioral challenges.

OHC Amendment H877 / S525

This amendment for \$150k was passed through the House, but was withdrawn in the Senate. Operation House Call does important work across all medical schools and two graduate nursing schools in Massachusetts, training future doctors and nurses and soon dentists on the best practices for treating patients with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) and autism.