

1. Workforce

H 3835 – An Act relative to meeting the human services workforce demand
Representative Denise Garlick and Senator Barry Finegold

This bill establishes additional rate setting requirements for all human services inclusive of state purchase of services and MassHealth state plan supports and services.

2. Nicky's Law

H 101, S 71 – An Act to protect persons with intellectual or developmental disability from abuse
Representative Linda Campbell and Senator Mike Moore

This bill establishes a registry of care providers substantiated of abuse of an individual with autism or intellectual and developmental disabilities within the DDS system. The bill will prevent serial abuse and addresses due process for care providers.

3. Operation House Call

H 1875, S 1288 – An Act supporting individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities
Representative Carolyn Dykema and Senator Jason Lewis

This bill established an accredited certification program for medical professionals focusing on best practices in healthcare for individuals with autism and intellectual and developmental disabilities.

4. Autism Police Training

H 2139, S 1433 – An Act relative to criminal justice training regarding autistic persons
Representative Paul Tucker and Senator Mike Moore

This bill will require training of law enforcement officers and correction officers in the commonwealth in appropriate and safe interactions with persons on the autism spectrum.

5. Loan Repayment

H 163, S 56 – An Act relative to a loan repayment program for human service workers
Representatives Jeff Roy and Smitty Pignatelli and Senator Eric Lesser

This bill encourages direct care workers to enter and continue working in community-based human services programs. It would provide loan reimbursement up to \$1,800 per year.

6. Accessory Housing

H 1250, S 820 – An Act relative to accessory dwelling units
Representative Christine Barber and Senator Bruce Tarr

This bill would allow the development and preservation of affordable housing for persons with disabilities and the elderly. It is designed to encourage creation accessory dwelling units in the form of 2 bedroom accessory apartments for people with disabilities and the elderly.

7. Hospital Training

H 1889, S 1287 – An Act creating autism teams in hospitals
Representative Sean Garballey and Senator Jason Lewis

This bill will expand current hospital based medical providers' knowledge about autism and I/DD, in order to improve the treatment individuals receive in medical settings.

8. Supported Decision Making

H 172, S 64 – An Act relative to supported decision-making agreements for certain adults with disabilities
Representatives Aaron Vega and Paul Tucker and Senator Joan Lovely

9. ABA MassHealth for Adults

H 87, S 55 – An Act relative to applied behavior analysis services
Representative James Arciero and Senator John Keenan

This bill will require MassHealth to cover medically necessary Applied Behavior Analysis services for adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities

10. Cueing and Supervision

H 154, S 60 – An Act relative to cueing and supervision in the PCA program
Representative James O'Day and Senator Joan Lovely

This bill amends Ch. 7 of the general law to allow the PCA program to include cueing and prompting as a covered services for those eligible members who need it.

11. Dental Health

H 1916, S 1215 – An Act An Act to improve oral health for all Massachusetts residents
Representatives Smitty Pignatelli and Kate Hogan and Senator Harriette Chandler

This bill would establish the position of licensed dental therapist and require training about best practices for people with autism and I/DD.

12. Higher Education Bill

H 1218, S 756 – An Act creating higher education opportunities for students with intellectual disabilities, autism, and other developmental disabilities who have exited special education
Representatives Patricia Haddad and Sean Garballey and Senators Joan Lovely and Michael Rodrigues

This bill allows persons with autism or I/DD to access the Commonwealth's state colleges and universities to gain skills necessary to work and live as independently as possible as adults.

13. An Act Relative to Persons with Disabilities

H 155, S 61 – An Act relative to persons with developmental disabilities
Representative James O'Day and Senator Joan Lovely

This bill adopts the federal definition of developmental disability in place of the current state definition of developmental disability and will amend the definition to include all adult individuals with a developmental disability, e.g. cerebral palsy and fetal alcohol syndrome.

14. Measures to Enhance the Respect and Protection of Persons with a Disability

H 117, S 53 – An Act updating terminology and investigative processes related to the protection of persons with disabilities
Representative Sean Garballey and Senator John Keenan

The bill would amend the current Disabled Person's Protection Commission's (DPPC) enabling statute to enhance protections and respect. This bill needs no appropriations yet will strengthen the DPPC's mission.

15. Prohibiting Discrimination against Parents with Disabilities

H 1487, S 983 – An Act prohibiting discrimination against adults with disabilities in family and juvenile court proceedings
Representative Kay Khan and Senator Joan Lovely

This bill will require courts to determine if a parent's disability causes actual harm to their child by requiring written findings when a parent's disability is relied on as a negative factor in a custody or parenting time determination.

16. Fair Pay for Comparable Work

H 138 – An Act relative fair pay for comparable work
Representative Kay Khan

This bill seeks to have staff at private providers be paid the same as those in state-operated programs in the same fields. Providers would be given higher reimbursements to address the salary disparity while allowing the elderly and those individuals with disabilities, to maintain their rights, dignity, and independence by choosing their support staff.

17. Katie's Law

H 141, S 51 – An Act relative to individuals with intellectual or developmental disabilities
Representative Kay Khan and Senator Patricia Jehlen

This bill (Katie's Law) would strike out certain phrases/words and outdated language (mentally retarded, handicap, etc.) in the General Laws and replacing them with more appropriated words as disability or intellectual or developmental disability.