



COFAR, Inc.
THE MASSACHUSETTS COALITION
OF FAMILIES AND ADVOCATES
3 Hodges Street, Mansfield, MA 02048
Telephone: (508) 339-3379 Fax: (508) 339-5034
www.cofar.org

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H.93 An Act regarding transparency for individuals and guardians

Sponsor: Rep. Dan Cahill

This bill is would require the Massachusetts Department of Developmental Services to provide easily accessible, comparative information about group home providers on the department's website.

In Illinois, the state Department of Human Services currently provides an online "provider scorecard," which offers comparative information about group home provider performance. The link to the Scorecard is <http://www.dhs.state.il.us/page.aspx?item=104519>.

In addition, the Illinois Human Services Department provides online reports on the numbers of abuse allegations and abuse substantiations made against individual providers in the state. The link to the reports is <http://www.dhs.state.il.us/page.aspx?item=31193>.

The DDS in Massachusetts does provide [online provider licensure reports](#). But these reports on individual providers [tend to contain vague and generic findings and recommendations](#) that make comparisons among providers difficult. The licensure reports, which are also difficult to find on the [DDS website](#), don't reveal or discuss findings of abuse or neglect within the residential or day program facilities.

At least some of the type of comparative information that is missing in Massachusetts can be found on the Illinois Human Services Department website. Such information has the potential to help families and guardians in making informed decisions on placement of their loved ones in state-funded facilities.

More information about our push for more transparency in the Massachusetts DDS system can be found at <https://cofarblog.wordpress.com/2019/01/02/illinois-transparency-laws-could-be-a-model-for-programs-providing-care-to-disabled-in-massachusetts/>.