

HOUSE No. 1424

By Ms. Fox of Boston, petition of Gloria L. Fox and others relative to the care of pregnant women in correctional facilities. The Judiciary.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PETITION OF:

Gloria L. Fox	Alice K. Wolf
Willie Mae Allen	Anthony J. Verga
William N. Brownsberger	Edward M. Augustus, Jr.
Ruth B. Balser	Patricia D. Jehlen
William Lantigua	Byron Rushing
Elizabeth A. Malia	Ellen Story
Kay Khan	Christine E. Canavan
Marie P. St. Fleur	Jennifer M. Callahan
Susan C. Fargo	Dianne Wilkerson
Barbara A. L'Italien	

In the Year Two Thousand and Seven.

AN ACT RELATIVE TO THE CARE OF PREGNANT WOMEN IN CORRECTIONAL FACILITIES.

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

1 Chapter 127 of the General Laws is hereby amended by striking
2 out section 118 and inserting in place thereof the following
3 section:—
4 Section 118. Whenever it is determined that a female confined in
5 any correctional facility is pregnant, adequate prenatal care shall be
6 made available. Such care shall include but not be limited to
7 frequent pre-natal visits to a physician, any medical or nutritional
8 items determined to be necessary by a physician, counseling and
9 parent training, access to milk, fruits and any programs available to
10 pregnant women, such as WIC and foreign language interpreters if
11 needed. Whenever it appears that a female confined in any correc-
12 tional facility, is about to give birth to a child, the physician of the
13 institution where the inmate is confined shall send to the commis-
14 sioner a certificate of her condition, and the commissioner shall
15 thereupon order her removal to a hospital near the institution where

16 she is confined, but in no case shall such female be removed to the
17 Tewksbury hospital or to any penal or reformatory institution for the
18 purpose of giving birth. An inmate so removed shall be kept in such
19 hospital until the physician thereof shall certify to said commissioner
20 that she is fully recovered and no longer in need of medical atten-
21 tion, whereupon the commissioner shall issue an order for her return
22 to the correctional facility. Postnatal examinations by a physician
23 shall be made until such a physician shall certify to said commis-
24 sioner that such examinations are not necessary.