

HOUSE No. 1425

By Ms. Fox of Boston, petition of Gloria L. Fox and others for legislation to authorize the Department of Correction to report annually on recidivism. The Judiciary.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PETITION OF:

Gloria L. Fox	Anthony J. Verga
Marie P. St. Fleur	Alice K. Wolf
Willie Mae Allen	Barbara A. L'Italien
William N. Brownsberger	Benjamin Swan
Ruth B. Balser	Byron Rushing
William Lantigua	Patricia D. Jehlen
Kay Khan	Carl M. Sciortino, Jr.
Timothy J. Toomey, Jr.	Michael E. Festa

In the Year Two Thousand and Seven.

AN ACT TO AUTHORIZE THE DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTION TO REPORT ANNUALLY ON RECIDIVISM.

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

1 Section 21 of chapter 799 of the Acts of 1985, as so appearing, is
2 hereby amended by adding the following:— The commissioner of
3 the Department of Corrections (DOC) is hereby authorized and
4 directed by report annually on the recidivism of persons released
5 from the custody of the DOC and the custody of the several sheriffs
6 either by unconditional discharge or by parole. For the purpose of
7 such report a recidivist is defined as any person released from a
8 commitment of at least thirty days who is re-incarcerated in a
9 Massachusetts state correctional institution or to a house of correc-
10 tion or jail for at least 30 days within three years of their date of
11 release to the street.

12 Such report shall include and compute separate recidivism rates
13 for releases from each state and county facility, and shall further
14 include and compute separately recidivism rates for persons released

15 from isolation, segregation and disciplinary units, including but not
16 limited to the Departmental Disciplinary Unit and Security Threat
17 Group units at MCI-Cedar Junction or elsewhere. For the purposes
18 of such report, “release from isolation, segregation and disciplinary
19 units” shall include all persons released from custody who spent
20 thirty or more days in an isolation, segregation, disciplinary, or
21 Security Threat Group Unit within the six months immediately prior
22 to their release.

23 The reports mandated by this section shall be prepared and
24 published yearly. The Commissioner of the DOC shall file such
25 report with the supreme judicial court, the chief administrative
26 justice of the trial court, the secretary of public safety, the commis-
27 sioner of administration, and the house and senate committees on
28 public safety and criminal justice and shall make sufficient copies
29 available to the general public.