

HOUSE No. 1542

By Ms. Khan of Newton, petition of Kay Khan and others for legislation to establish certain prerelease programs for female inmates of correctional institutions. The Judiciary.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PETITION OF:

Kay Khan	Gloria L. Fox
Ellen Story	Peter V. Kocot
Mark C. Montigny	Elizabeth A. Malia
Timothy J. Toomey, Jr.	Alice Hanlon Peisch
Ruth B. Balsler	

In the Year Two Thousand and Seven.

AN ACT REGULATING PROGRAMS OUTSIDE CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTIONS FOR FEMALE INMATES.

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 1. Section 49 of Chapter 127 of the Massachusetts
2 General Laws, as appearing in the 2004 Official Edition is hereby
3 amended by inserting, in line 7, after the word “facility” the
4 following words:— and shall ensure that there exist at all times pro-
5 grams outside correctional facilities available to each female
6 offender who is within eighteen months of parole and eligible for
7 such programs. The commissioner shall ensure that such programs
8 provide training which is practical and realistic to an inmate’s ability
9 to obtain marketable skills for securing meaningful employment
10 upon being paroled, and shall offer referral resources for pregnant
11 women who are leaving said facilities, to food and nutrition pro-
12 grams for themselves and for children who are born while the
13 women are confined in facilities.

1 SECTION 2. Said Section 49 of said Chapter 127 of the General
2 Laws, as so appearing, is hereby further amended by inserting, in
3 line 45, after the word “facility”, the following words:—

4 In order to facilitate the reintegration of committed female
5 offenders, the commissioner of correction shall, insofar as practical,
6 ensure that such programs, including pre-release centers, are estab-
7 lished in the home communities of inmates eligible for such pro-
8 grams.