

# SENATE NO. 787



## **RESOLVE** ESTABLISHING A SPECIAL COMMISSION TO STUDY THE FEASIBILITY OF THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A PILOT MENTAL HEALTH COURT IN THE COMMONWEALTH

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

1 RESOLVED, That there shall be a special commission consisting of 3 members of the senate, 3  
2 members of the house of representatives, the chief justice of the district court or her designee, the  
3 commissioner of the department of mental health or her designee and 3 members to be appointed  
4 by the governor for the purpose of making an investigation and study relative to the feasibility of  
5 establishing a pilot program in the district court division of the trial court to provide post conviction  
6 voluntary alternative sentencing for a defendant with mental illness applicable only to a defendant  
7 found guilty of a misdemeanor or non-violent crime. The program shall provide for diversion of the  
8 defendant into judicially supervised, community based treatment.

9 The commission shall report to the general court the results of its investigation and study and its  
10 recommendations, if any, together with drafts of legislation necessary to carry its recommendations

11 into effect by filing the same with the clerk of the senate on or before the first Wednesday of  
12 December, 2007.