

HOUSE No. 121

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

F. Jay Barrows

To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in General Court assembled:

The undersigned legislators and/or citizens respectfully petition for the passage of the accompanying bill:

An Act Relative to Public Assistance Substance Screening.

PETITION OF:

| NAME: | DISTRICT/ADDRESS: |
|-----------------------|--------------------------------|
| F. Jay Barrows | 1st Bristol |
| Scott P. Brown | Norfolk, Bristol and Middlesex |
| Lewis G. Evangelidis | 1st Worcester |
| Todd M. Smola | 1st Hampden |
| Stephen L. DiNatale | 3rd Worcester |
| Elizabeth Poirier | 14th Bristol |
| Bruce E. Tarr | First Essex and Middlesex |
| Bradley H. Jones, Jr. | 20th Middlesex |
| Stephen R. Canessa | 12th Bristol |
| Paul McMurtry | 11th Norfolk |

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION
SEE HOUSE, NO. 3759 OF .]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand and Nine

AN ACT RELATIVE TO PUBLIC ASSISTANCE SUBSTANCE SCREENING

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: The Department of Transitional Assistance shall establish a program for random drug
2 testing persons receiving public assistance, not inclusive to food stamps. This program shall be
3 applied only to individual(s) who hold prior convictions on any drug related charge. This
4 includes but is not limited to drug possession and intent to distribute.

5 Section 2: The Department of Transitional Assistance shall provide suitable remedies to
6 individuals with positive drug tests. The department shall also develop strategies to help ensure
7 that participants receiving transitional assistance are drug-free. Individuals who do not comply
8 with the rehabilitation recommendations set forth by the department of transitional assistance
9 may face a suspension of their benefits.

10 Section 3: The Department of Transitional Assistance shall collect, record, and publish statistics
11 relating to those individuals who collect public assistance and test positive for substances for
12 which they do not have a prescription.