

HOUSE No. 3440

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Gloria L. Fox

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 adoption of the accompanying bill:

An Act relative to the implementation of a department of corrections reentry program.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:
<i>Gloria L. Fox</i>	<i>7th Suffolk</i>
<i>Chris Walsh</i>	<i>6th Middlesex</i>
<i>Paul R. Heroux</i>	<i>2nd Bristol</i>
<i>Elizabeth A. Malia</i>	<i>11th Suffolk</i>

HOUSE No. 3440

By Ms. Fox of Boston, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 3440) of Gloria L. Fox and others relative to the implementation of a department of corrections reentry program. The Judiciary.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

**In the One Hundred and Eighty-Ninth General Court
(2015-2016)**

An Act relative to the implementation of a department of corrections reentry program.

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 124 of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after section 1, as
2 appearing in the 2012 Official Edition, the following section:-

3 Section 1A. (a) In addition to exercising the powers which are otherwise afforded by
4 law, the commissioner may, subject to funding in accordance with subsection (b), implement
5 programs or demonstration projects that:-

6 (1) provide offenders in correctional facilities with educational, literacy, vocational, and
7 job placement services to facilitate re-entry into the community;

8 (2) provide substance abuse treatment and services, including the provision of full
9 continuum of substance abuse treatment services that encompasses outpatient and comprehensive
10 residential services and recovery;

11 (3) provide coordinated supervision and comprehensive services for offenders upon
12 release from a correctional facility, including housing and mental and physical health care to
13 facilitate re-entry into the community, and which, to the extent applicable, are provided by
14 community-based entities, including coordinated reentry veteran-specific services for eligible
15 veterans;

16 (4) encourage offenders to develop safe, healthy and responsible family relationships and
17 parent-child relationships and involve the entire family unit in comprehensive reentry services,
18 as appropriate to the safety, security and well-being of the family and child; or

19 (5) encourage the involvement of correctional facility mentors in the reentry process and
20 enable those mentors to remain in contact with offenders while in custody and after reentry into
21 the community.

22 (b) To fund any program or demonstration project implemented pursuant to this section,
23 the commissioner shall make application for a grant pursuant to 46 U.S.C. section 3797w.

24 (c) Any program or project implemented pursuant to this section shall include a
25 comprehensive strategic reentry plan that contains measurable annual and 5-year performance
26 outcomes, and that uses, to the maximum extent possible, random assigned and controlled
27 studies to determine the effectiveness of the program. One goal of that plan shall be to reduce the
28 rate of recidivism, as defined by the Attorney General of the United States, consistent with the
29 research on offender reentry undertaken by the Bureau of Justice Statistic, by 50 per cent over a
30 5-year period for offenders released from a correctional facility.

31 In developing a reentry plan under this subsection, the commissioner shall coordinate
32 with communities and experts, including persons in the fields of public safety, juvenile and adult

33 corrections, housing, health, education, substance abuse, children and families, victim services,
34 employment, and business and members of nonprofit organizations that can provide reentry
35 services.