

HOUSE No. 3509

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Diana DiZoglio

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 post-release placement for certain inmates.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:
<i>Diana DiZoglio</i>	<i>14th Essex</i>
<i>James B. Eldridge</i>	<i>Middlesex and Worcester</i>
<i>Thomas A. Golden, Jr.</i>	<i>16th Middlesex</i>
<i>Juana Matias</i>	<i>16th Essex</i>
<i>Richard J. Ross</i>	<i>Norfolk, Bristol and Middlesex</i>

HOUSE No. 3509

By Ms. DiZoglio of Methuen, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 3509) of Diana DiZoglio and others for legislation to establish a voucher assistance program for certain drug dependent persons released from incarceration and assigned to certified alcohol and drug free housing . Mental Health, Substance Use and Recovery.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

**In the One Hundred and Ninetieth General Court
(2017-2018)**

An Act relative to post-release placement for certain 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. Chapter 111E of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2014 Official
2 Edition, is hereby amended by adding the following section:-

3 Section 19. Notwithstanding subsection (h) of section 18A of chapter 17, a person
4 convicted of a drug offense and released from a prison or house of correction, after serving the
5 term for such offense and found by the court to be an alcohol or drug dependent person shall be
6 assigned to certified alcohol and drug free housing, as defined by said section 18A, and shall be
7 placed on probation for the length of such housing to continue thereafter for a total of not less
8 than 6 months but not more than 1 year.

9 SECTION 2. Chapter 121B of the General Laws is hereby amended by adding the
10 following section:-

11 Section 61. The department shall establish and administer a voucher assistance program
12 in the form of vouchers for eligible and qualified drug dependent persons who are released from
13 incarceration and assigned to certified alcohol and drug free housing pursuant to section 19 of
14 chapter 111E, as determined eligible pursuant to department regulations. Such voucher shall be
15 paid to the provider of certified alcohol and drug free housing as payment in full for residency in
16 such housing; provided, however that such voucher shall be for month to month payment for a
17 minimum term of 6 months and shall expire after 12 full and continuous months. The department
18 shall set the rate for such payment.