

**SENATE . . . . . No. 1499**

---

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

PRESENTED BY:

*Julian Cyr*

*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 to promote rehabilitation including guaranteed health, treatment, and safety for incarcerated LGBTQI+ People.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	
<i>Julian Cyr</i>	<i>Cape and Islands</i>	
<i>Jack Patrick Lewis</i>	<i>7th Middlesex</i>	<i>1/23/2023</i>
<i>Lindsay N. Sabadosa</i>	<i>1st Hampshire</i>	<i>2/22/2023</i>
<i>Rebecca L. Rausch</i>	<i>Norfolk, Worcester and Middlesex</i>	<i>3/7/2023</i>

**SENATE . . . . . No. 1499**

---

By Mr. Cyr, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 1499) of Julian Cyr, Jack Patrick Lewis, Lindsay N. Sabadosa and Rebecca L. Rausch for legislation to promote rehabilitation including guaranteed health, treatment, and safety for incarcerated LGBTQI+ people. Public Safety and Homeland Security.

---

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION  
SEE SENATE, NO. 1566 OF 2021-2022.]

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

—————  
**In the One Hundred and Ninety-Third General Court  
(2023-2024)**  
—————

An Act to promote rehabilitation including guaranteed health, treatment, and safety for incarcerated LGBTQI+ People.

*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 13 of chapter 125 of the General Laws is hereby amended by  
2 adding the following paragraph:-

3 The superintendent of each state correctional facility and administrator of each county  
4 correctional facility shall designate 1 staff member as the LGBTQI+ coordinator. The LGBTQI+  
5 coordinator shall: (i) ensure compliance with housing compatibility standards; (ii) coordinate  
6 education, employment, and program placement for incarcerated persons who are LGBTQI+, as  
7 defined in section 1 of chapter 127; (iii) support self-facilitated LGBTQ+ groups and leisure  
8 activities as defined in section 32C; (iv) after consulting with incarcerated persons, ensure at  
9 least one periodical is available in each institutional library pertaining to living well with HIV

10 and at least one periodical pertaining to the LGBTQI+ community, and (v) perform other  
11 necessary responsibilities. The LGBTQI+ coordinator shall not be the institutional PREA officer  
12 appointed pursuant to section 32B of chapter 127.

13 SECTION 2. Section 1 of chapter 127 of the General Laws, and section 1 of chapter 125  
14 as so appearing, is hereby amended by inserting the following definitions:-

15 "LGBTQI+", lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, intersex or not conforming to a  
16 specific gender identity or sexual orientation.

17 "General Population", any housing placement where an incarcerated person is not held in  
18 restrictive housing. In no event shall any general population unit have conditions that are similar  
19 to or more restrictive than restrictive housing. These conditions shall include an incarcerated  
20 person's access to: out of cell time; the yard, gym, and other recreational spaces; the law library;  
21 religious services; canteen; all personal property; visitation, including both the total available  
22 visitation time and the opportunity for contact visits; telephones and video visits; opportunities to  
23 earn a wage, and opportunities to earn good time. All such access shall be maximized as much as  
24 possible.

25 "Incarcerated Person", inmate or prisoner.

26 "Consensual", free from fraud, force, or coercion, provided, however, that relations  
27 involving correctional officers and incarcerated persons shall not be deemed consensual.

28 SECTION 3. Said chapter 127, as so appearing, is hereby amended by inserting after  
29 section 21 the following section:-

30           Section 21A. Upon intake at a correctional facility, each incarcerated person shall be  
31 provided an opportunity to voluntarily disclose their sexual orientation and gender identity,  
32 provided further that this information may be disclosed and documented at any time. The  
33 information provided shall only be made available to the LGBTQI+ coordinator and any other  
34 staff persons designated by the commissioner of correction or sheriff; provided, however that the  
35 commissioner and sheriffs shall minimize access to sensitive information. Aggregated data on  
36 the number of incarcerated persons who voluntarily disclosed their sexual orientation and gender  
37 identity shall be made publicly available on an annual basis for each correctional facility;  
38 provided, however, that the report shall not include any personally identifiable information.

39           SECTION 4. Section 22 of said chapter 127, as so appearing, is hereby amended by  
40 adding the following paragraph:-

41           Upon intake at a correctional facility, each incarcerated person shall be provided an  
42 opportunity to voluntarily disclose homophobic or transphobic sentiments, provided further that  
43 this information may be disclosed and documented at any time. Anyone who discloses, is  
44 reasonably reported to harbor, or demonstrates behavior consistent with homophobic or  
45 transphobic sentiments shall not be housed in the same cell or housing unit as someone who  
46 identifies as LGBTQI+; provided that no person shall be punished for disclosure or  
47 nondisclosure of such information. Information obtained consistent with this section shall not be  
48 shared with the Department of Probation or the Parole Board.

49           SECTION 5. Said chapter 127, as so appearing, is hereby amended by inserting after  
50 section 32A the following 2 sections:-

51           Section 32B. For the purposes of this section, the term “superintendent” shall mean the  
52 superintendent of each state correctional facility and administrator of each county correctional  
53 facility.

54           Each correctional facility shall make anonymized, aggregate data related to the federal  
55 Prison Rape Elimination Act of 2003, codified in 34 U.S.C. §§ 30301 to 30309, inclusive,  
56 hereinafter PREA, publicly available on their website annually.

57           For each PREA investigation conducted, the correctional facility shall make publicly  
58 available on their website the factual basis for the PREA investigation, including, but not limited  
59 to, whether it was initiated by staff, an incarcerated person, or a third party. In addition, the  
60 factual basis upon which it was initiated shall include a detailed description of the alleged  
61 incident, who initiated the investigation, whether the investigated behavior was consensual, and  
62 the general location of the alleged incident, provided further, the department will report on the  
63 race, age, disability status, sexual orientation and gender identity of incarcerated persons  
64 involved delineated by whether they were a victim, perpetrator, or consensual party to said  
65 investigated behavior; provided however, that the detailed description of the complaint shall not  
66 include any personally identifiable information of incarcerated persons.

67           For each PREA investigation conducted, each correctional facility shall make publicly  
68 available on their website a detailed summary of the investigation and factual basis for the  
69 investigatory outcome including the evidence relied upon and steps taken to respond to the  
70 allegation; provided however, that the detailed summary of the investigation shall not include  
71 any personally identifiable information of incarcerated persons.

72           Annually, each correctional facility shall make publicly available on their website all  
73 documents normally provided to the federal Bureau of Justice Statistics pursuant to 34 U.S.C. §  
74 30303; provided however, that said documents shall not include any personally identifiable  
75 information of incarcerated persons.

76           All formal or informal institutional grievances and federal Americans With Disabilities  
77 Act requests related to sexual violence or the general wellbeing of LGBTQI+ persons and those  
78 living with HIV shall be redacted and made publicly available on each correctional facility's  
79 website; provided, that said documents shall not include any personally identifiable information  
80 of incarcerated persons.

81           Section 32C. Each correctional facility shall provide meaningful opportunities for  
82 LGBTQI+ incarcerated persons to: (i) congregate; (ii) form and self-facilitate self-help groups;  
83 (iii) receive LGBTQI+ themed literature in the institutional library, including one commonly  
84 read periodical about living well with HIV and one commonly read periodical about the  
85 LGBTQI+ community; (iv) watch LGBTQI+ movies free of charge; and (v) celebrate June as  
86 pride month. Provided further, each correctional facility shall allow visitors to participate in  
87 subsection (ii) and subsection (v).

88           SECTION 6. Section 38F of said chapter 127, as so appearing, is hereby amended by  
89 adding the following sentence:- Any claim that is directly related to sexual violence by an  
90 incarcerated person that may be the subject of a grievance pursuant to said section 38E shall be  
91 deemed exhausted.

92           SECTION 7. Section 39A of said chapter 127, as so appearing, is hereby amended by  
93 striking out subsection (c) and inserting in place thereof the following subsection:-

94 (c) The fact that an incarcerated person identifies as LGBTQI+ shall not be grounds for  
95 placement in restrictive housing or removal from the general population, provided however, that  
96 an incarcerated person may request to be removed from the general population for their own  
97 safety at any time.

98 SECTION 8. Section 39A of said chapter 127, as so appearing, is hereby further amended  
99 by striking out subsection (f) and inserting in place thereof the following 4 subsections:-

100 (f) No incarcerated person shall be placed in restrictive housing or removed from general  
101 population for reporting an act of sexual violence in good faith, provided that an incarcerated  
102 person may request to be removed from general population for their own safety at any time.

103 (g) No incarcerated person who engages in consensual sex shall be removed from general  
104 population. Provided further, such behavior shall not be grounds for removal of visitation, or  
105 phone privileges, provided further, any guilty finding on a disciplinary report shall not be used in  
106 determining the classification status or parole eligibility of an incarcerated person.

107 (h) Public displays of affection, including but not limited to handshakes, hugs, touching  
108 of another's hair and other forms of non-sexual contact, shall not be subject to disciplinary  
109 action, nor shall such incidents be used as a basis to punish or penalize an incarcerated person in  
110 any way.

111 (i) An incarcerated person shall not be confined to restrictive housing except pursuant to  
112 section 39 or this section.

113 SECTION 9. Section 16 of said chapter 127, as so appearing, is hereby amended by  
114 adding the following 3 sections:

115           16A: Each correctional facility shall ensure that an incarcerated person that requests  
116 access to medication to prevent the transmission of HIV be provided such medication at no cost  
117 to the incarcerated person, provided further, that reasons for requesting said medication shall be  
118 kept confidential between the medical provider and incarcerated person and not be shared with  
119 security or administrative staff, provided however, that said medication shall only be provided if  
120 clinically appropriate.

121           16B: Each correctional facility shall ensure that any incarcerated person prescribed  
122 medication to prevent the transmission of HIV or to control and manage HIV, whether held on  
123 pre-trial or committed status, shall be provided a thirty day supply upon release from custody.

124           16C: Each correctional facility shall ensure that an incarcerated person prescribed  
125 medication to control and manage HIV shall be permitted to keep said medication on their  
126 person or in their cell to ensure regular and timely dosage of said medication.