

SENATE No. 1564

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Cynthia Stone Creem

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 education and programming for the incarcerated.

PETITION OF:

NAME:

Cynthia Stone Creem

DISTRICT/ADDRESS:

First Middlesex and Norfolk

SENATE No. 1564

By Ms. Creem, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 1564) of Cynthia Stone Creem for legislation relative to education and programming for the incarcerated. Public Safety and Homeland Security.

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION
SEE SENATE, NO. 1391 OF 2019-2020.]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

**In the One Hundred and Ninety-Second General Court
(2021-2022)**

An Act relative to education and programming for the incarcerated.

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 127, as appearing in section 80 of chapter 69 of the acts of 2018, of
2 the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting the following new section immediately after
3 section 48B:-

4 Section 48C: The commissioner and administrators of state prisons and county facilities
5 shall maximize out of cell time and opportunities for prisoner participation in education, training,
6 employment, and all other programming including programming related to rehabilitation, health
7 care and substance use. All prisoners shall have the opportunity to access at least one hour of
8 programming daily at least five days a week. Except for restrictive housing and security or
9 operational emergencies, no prisoner shall be locked into a cell for more than 16 hours daily.

10 SECTION 2. Section 48 of Chapter 127, as appearing in section 80 of chapter 69 of the
11 acts of 2018, is hereby amended by striking the second paragraph and inserting in place thereof
12 the following:- The commissioner shall ensure that at least 1 educational program leading to the
13 award of a high school equivalency certificate is available to persons who are committed to the
14 custody of the department or to a county correctional facility and who have not obtained a high
15 school degree or equivalency. In addition to each such facility providing at least one general high
16 school equivalency (GED) class, each facility shall also include specialized, age-appropriate
17 educational classes for emerging adults, including all individuals ages 18 thru 25, for both
18 individuals who have and have not obtained a high school degree or equivalency, including but
19 not limited to high school equivalency and college readiness or workforce readiness classes. All
20 emerging adults shall have the opportunity to access at least two hours of programming daily at
21 least five days a week.