HOUSE DOCKET, NO. FILED ON: 1/11/2009

**HOUSE . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . No.**

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The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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PRESENTED BY:

**Byron Rushing, Ruth B. Balser**

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*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 increasing public safety by increasing access to addiction treatment.

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

PETITION OF:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Name: | District/Address: |
| Byron Rushing | 9th Suffolk |
| Ruth B. Balser | 12th Middlesex |
| Kay Khan | 11th Middlesex |
| Carlo P. Basile | 1st Suffolk |
| Pam Richardson | 6th Middlesex |
| Willie Mae Allen | 6th Suffolk |
| Rosemary Sandlin | 3rd Hampden |
| Gale D. Candaras | First Hampden and Hampshire |

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION
SEE HOUSE, NO. 1897 OF 2007-2008.]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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**In the Year Two Thousand and Nine**

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

An Act increasing public safety by increasing access to addiction treatment.

 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:*

SECTION 1. Chapter 111E of the Massachusetts General Laws is hereby

amended in section 5 by adding, after line 34, the following:—

The director shall establish a program of assistance for the

treatment of all substance dependent persons who are not otherwise

eligible for assistance under any other program and who lack

private health insurance coverage or have health insurance coverage

which does not cover all necessary treatment covered by

this chapter. The department shall furnish such medical assistance

to each such substance dependent person residing in the commonwealth

in accordance with standards of eligibility established by

the department.

The department shall ensure that all substance dependent persons

who appear to be eligible for assistance under this or any

other chapter are assisted in enrolling for such treatments.

The director shall promulgate and, from time to time, amend

regulations detailing eligibility criteria, services to be covered in

conformity with appropriate standards of care, and reimbursement

policies.

The department shall conduct annual reports detailing

the effectiveness and financial impact of the programs that are funded pursuant to the requirements of this act, and submit those studies to the Legislature no later than one year from the date the programs are implemented. The evaluation studies shall include, but not be limited to, a study of

the implementation process, a review of lower incarcerations costs,

reductions in crime, reduced prison and jail construction, reduced

welfare costs, reduced public safety costs, reduced health care costs, reduced costs of homelessness services, the adequacy of funds appropriated, treatment measures on completion rates and quality of life indicators, such as alcohol and drug used, employment, health, mental health, and family and social supports and, other impacts or issues the department can identify.

In addition to studies to evaluate the effectiveness and

financial impact of the programs that are funded pursuant to the

requirements of this act, the department shall produce an annual

report detailing the number and characteristics of participants

served as a result of this act.