

HOUSE No.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Byron Rushing, Ruth B. Balser

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

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:*

1 SECTION 1. Chapter 111E of the Massachusetts General Laws is hereby
2 amended in section 5 by adding, after line 34, the following:—
3
4 The director shall establish a program of assistance for the
5 treatment of all substance dependent persons who are not otherwise
6 eligible for assistance under any other program and who lack
7 private health insurance coverage or have health insurance coverage
8 which does not cover all necessary treatment covered by
9 this chapter. The department shall furnish such medical assistance
10 to each such substance dependent person residing in the commonwealth
11 in accordance with standards of eligibility established by
12 the department.

13

14 The department shall ensure that all substance dependent persons
15 who appear to be eligible for assistance under this or any
16 other chapter are assisted in enrolling for such treatments.

17 The director shall promulgate and, from time to time, amend
18 regulations detailing eligibility criteria, services to be covered in
19 conformity with appropriate standards of care, and reimbursement
20 policies.

21

22 The department shall conduct annual reports detailing
23 the effectiveness and financial impact of the programs that are funded pursuant to the requirements of this
24 act, and submit those studies to the Legislature no later than one year from the date the programs are
25 implemented. The evaluation studies shall include, but not be limited to, a study of
26 the implementation process, a review of lower incarcerations costs,
27 reductions in crime, reduced prison and jail construction, reduced
28 welfare costs, reduced public safety costs, reduced health care costs, reduced costs of homelessness
29 services, the adequacy of funds appropriated, treatment measures on completion rates and quality of life
30 indicators, such as alcohol and drug used, employment, health, mental health, and family and social
31 supports and, other impacts or issues the department can identify.

32

33 In addition to studies to evaluate the effectiveness and
34 financial impact of the programs that are funded pursuant to the
35 requirements of this act, the department shall produce an annual
36 report detailing the number and characteristics of participants
37 served as a result of this act.

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