

HOUSE No.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Marie P. St. Fleur

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 to Establish a Reentry and Reintegration Council.

PETITION OF:

NAME:

DISTRICT/ADDRESS:

Marie P. St. Fleur

5th Suffolk

Gloria L. Fox

7th Suffolk

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand and Nine

AN ACT TO ESTABLISH A REENTRY AND REINTEGRATION COUNCIL.

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

1 There shall be established a reentry and reintegration council, hereinafter the council, within the
2 parole board. The council shall not be subject to the control of the parole board except as
3 provided by this section. The purpose of the council shall be to implement best practices through
4 a coordinated system of delivering reentry and reintegration services.

5 The council shall consist of twenty five members of which thirteen members are to be appointed
6 by the governor, including: the secretary of public safety, or his designee, who shall act as co-
7 chair; the secretary of housing and economic development, or his designee; the secretary of labor
8 and work force development, or his designee; the commissioner of department of corrections, or
9 his designee; the commissioner of mental health, or his designee; the commissioner of
10 transitional assistance, or his designee; the commissioner of probation, or his designee; 4 of
11 whom shall be a representatives of private, public, community and faith-based reentry and
12 reintegration programs; 1 of whom shall be a representative of the parole board; 1 of whom shall
13 be a representative of the courts; eight members appointed by the legislature: 1 member to be
14 appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives; 1 member to be appointed by the senate
15 president, who shall act as co-chair; 1 member to be appointed by the minority leader of the
16 house, who shall act as co-chair; 1 member to be appointed by the minority leader of the senate;
17 the chairs of the house and senate committees on ways and means, or their designees; the chairs
18 of the joint committee on public safety and homeland security, or their designees; two members
19 to be appointed by the Massachusetts Sheriffs Association.

20 Of the members appointed by the governor hereunder, four shall be appointed for a term of one
21 year, three for a term of two years, two for a term of three years, two for a term of four years and
22 two for a term of five years. Upon expiration of the term of a member appointed by the governor,

23 the successor shall be appointed in a like manner for a term of five years. The council shall meet
24 as often as deemed necessary by the co-chairs, or a majority of the council, but shall not meet
25 less frequently than six times per year.

26 The council shall, within one year upon passage of this act, establish a uniform definition of
27 recidivism and establish an accountability-based monitoring system which will enable
28 comprehensive and continuous evidenced-based data collection and dissemination on systemic
29 performance at all points in the reentry process including diversion, sentencing, incarceration,
30 post-release supervision and community transition. The council shall produce annual progress
31 reports on recidivism, uniform reentry programs being implemented or piloted, and enable
32 accountability-based monitoring at each level of the system. Said reports shall be used by the
33 council to establish a uniform system of reentry and reintegration based on best practices for
34 evidenced based reentry and reintegration programs proven to reduce recidivism. The council
35 shall submit draft legislation for establishing and implementing a uniform inmate reentry and
36 reintegration program applicable at all Massachusetts state correctional institutions and houses of
37 corrections or jails. The uniform inmate reentry and reintegration program shall reduce barriers
38 to successful reentry and reintegration by enabling multijurisdictional and departmental
39 collaboration focused on evidenced based solutions proven to reduce recidivism.