

SENATE No.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Karen E. Spilka

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 creating a jail diversion program.

PETITION OF:

NAME:

Karen E. Spilka

DISTRICT/ADDRESS:

Second Middlesex and Norfolk

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION
SEE SENATE, NO. S01130 OF 2007-2008.]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand and Nine

AN ACT CREATING A JAIL DIVERSION PROGRAM.

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 19 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2006 Official Edition, are
2 hereby amended by inserting after section 21 the following section:-

3 Section 22. Subject to appropriation, the commissioner shall establish a jail diversion program.
4 Such program shall provide opportunities to divert individuals with mental illness out of the
5 criminal justice system and into community based mental health and substance abuse services
6 where such diversion is clinically appropriate and consistent with public safety. This program
7 shall establish, monitor and evaluate pilot projects and ongoing programs in cities, towns or
8 regions of the commonwealth, as determined by the commissioner, taking into consideration
9 available resources and need, using promising or established program designs for effectuating
10 clinically appropriate, safe and effective diversion of such individuals.