

SENATE No. 877

By Mr. Webber, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 877) of Peter C. Webber for legislation to provide work incentives for criminal offenders. Human Services and Elderly Affairs.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Eighty-four.

AN ACT PROVIDING WORK INCENTIVES FOR CRIMINAL OFFENDERS.

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

- 1 Chapter 127 of the General Laws is hereby amended by
- 2 striking out section 129D and inserting in place thereof the
- 3 following new section: —
- 4 *Section 129D.* The commissioner, or in the case of deduc-
- 5 tions of sentence earned in any jail or house of correction, the
- 6 sheriff of each county, or in the case of deductions of sentence
- 7 earned in Suffolk County, the penal institution commissioner
- 8 of Boston, may grant to a prisoner, in addition to the deduc-
- 9 tions of sentence provided under sections 129 and 129C, a fur-
- 10 ther deduction of sentence of not more than two and one half
- 11 days for each month for the satisfactory conduct of said pris-
- 12 oner who while confined at a facility under section 83B of this
- 13 chapter performs work involving reforestation of the state
- 14 forests or such other qualifying work as the commissioner
- 15 may determine, or who performs duties in accordance with
- 16 section 49B of this chapter, or who while confined at any cor-
- 17 rectional institution, jail, or house of correction is working at
- 18 a state hospital or state school, or who satisfactorily completes
- 19 an educational program leading to the award of a high school
- 20 equivalence certificate or satisfactorily completes any other
- 21 educational sequence or any vocational training program estab-
- 22 lished within or without the institution, or who satisfactorily
- 23 performs while employed on work release or in prison industry
- 24 or while involved in a community service program or activity
- 25 which the superintendent of the institution shall deem valuable

26 to said prisoners rehabilitation.

27 Such further deduction of sentence granted under this sec-
28 tion shall be added to any deduction to which the prisoner is
29 entitled under said sections one hundred and twenty-nine and
30 one hundred and twenty-nine C for reducig the term of im-
31 prisonment by deduction from the maximum term for which
32 he may be held under his sentence or sentences and for reduc-
33 ing from the minimum term of the sentence or sentences the
34 good conduct credits earned under this section for parole
35 eligibility as provided under section one hundred and thirty-
36 three of this chapter.

37 A prisoner who has received deductions from the term for
38 which he may be held under his sentence or sentences shall
39 receive from the commissioner, the respective sheriff, and in
40 Suffolk County the penal institution commissioner of Boston a
41 certificate of discharge on the date which has been determined
42 by such additional deductions from the term of his sentence
43 or sentences.

44 The commissioner shall promulgate rules and regulations in
45 accordance with subsection (q) of section one of chapter one
46 hundred and twenty-four of the general laws for the purpose
47 of including, but not limited to, the procedure for establishing
48 standards for programs and granting credit under this section.