

HOUSE No. 6398

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, December 30, 1987.

The committee on Human Services and Elderly Affairs, to whom was referred the petition (accompanied by resolutions, House, No. 6373) of Stephen D. Pierce, Gregory W. Sullivan and Marie-Louise Kehoe for adoption of resolutions by the General Court requesting the Commissioner of Correction to immediately suspend the work release program for convicted first degree murderers, reports recommending that the accompanying resolutions (House, No. 6398) ought to be adopted.

For the committee,

BARBARA A. HILDT.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

RESOLUTIONS REQUESTING THE COMMISSIONER OF CORRECTION OF THE COMMONWEALTH TO IMMEDIATELY SUSPEND WORK RELEASE FOR FIRST DEGREE LIFERS.

1 *Resolved*, Requesting the Commissioner of Correction of the
2 Commonwealth to immediately suspend work release for first-
3 degree murderers and report to the House Committee on Post
4 Audit and Oversight and the Joint Committees on Human
5 Services and Elderly Affairs and Ways and Means regarding work
6 release for first degree lifers.

7 *Whereas*, The escape of first-degree lifer while on work release
8 from MCI Lancaster further demonstrates the overwhelming need
9 and urgency in this Commonwealth to protect the citizens of
10 Massachusetts from the most violent members of our society who
11 through their heinous crimes have demonstrated that they place
12 no value on human life.

13 *Whereas*, The protection of law abiding citizens should be,
14 above all else, the hallmark of a modern correctional system.

15 *Resolved*, That the General Court request the Commissioner
16 of Correction to immediately suspend work release for first-degree
17 lifers until the Governor of the Commonwealth conducts a full
18 investigation of the rules and regulations governing work release
19 for first-degree lifers, and submits to the House Committee on
20 Post Audit and Oversight and the Joint Committees on Human
21 Services and Elderly Affairs and Ways and Means statistics
22 concerning the number of first-degree murderers currently
23 participating in work release programs and the details leading to
24 the recent escape of a first degree lifer, as well as, a plan to improve
25 security in all correctional institutions as pertaining to first-degree
26 lifers.

27 *Resolved*, That copies of these resolutions be forwarded to His
28 Excellency Michael S. Dukakis, Governor of the Commonwealth.