

By Ms. Fox of Boston, petition of Gloria L. Fox, Carol A. Donovan, Barbara Hiildt and Marc K. Draisen relative to the care of pregnant women in correctional facilities. Public Safety.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Ninety-Two.

AN ACT RELATIVE TO THE CARE OF PREGNANT WOMEN IN CORRECTIONAL FACILITIES.

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 127 of the General Laws is hereby
2 amended by inserting after section 17A the following section: —

3 Section 17B. Whenever it is determined that a female confined
4 in any correctional facility is pregnant adequate pre-natal care
5 shall be made available. Such care shall include but not be limited
6 to frequent pre-natal visits to a physician, any medical or
7 nutritional items determined to be necessary by a physician,
8 counseling and parent training, access to milk, fruits and any
9 programs available to pregnant women, such as WIC and foreign
10 language interpreters if needed.

1 SECTION 2. Section 118 of said chapter 127, as so appearing,
2 is hereby amended by striking out the last sentence and inserting
3 in place thereof the following two sentences: — An inmate so
4 removed shall be kept in such hospital until the physician thereof
5 shall certify to said commissioner that she is fully recovered and
6 no longer in need of medical attention, whereupon the
7 commissioner shall issue an order for her return to the correctional
8 facility. Postnatal examinations by a physician shall be made until
9 such a physician shall certify to said commissioner that such
10 examinations are not necessary.

