

By Ms. Hildt of Amesbury, petition of Barbara Hildt and other members of the General Court relative to providing for certain educational programs for inmates of correctional institutions. Human Services and Elderly Affairs.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

AN ACT RELATIVE TO PROVIDING CERTAIN EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES.

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

1 Paragraph 2 of section 2 of chapter 124 of the General Laws,
2 as appearing in the 1988 Official Edition, is hereby amended by
3 adding the following words: — so that they may be as uniform
4 as practicable and in accordance with the provisions of sec-
5 tion forty-eight of chapter one hundred and twenty-seven.

6 The goals of the educational programs shall be to provide basic
7 literacy, mathematics, health and social skills similar to those
8 achieved by students in accredited public schools. All inmates
9 shall be given an opportunity to earn a high school equivalency
10 certificate, and all public institutions of higher education shall be
11 encouraged to develop linkages with jails, houses of correction
12 and state corrections facilities and to allow academic credits to
13 student teachers working with offenders therein.

14 Any inmate serving a sentence of more than ninety days and
15 who has not earned a high school diploma shall be given the
16 opportunity to participate in basic education programs.

17 There shall be established a council on corrections education,
18 hereafter called the council, consisting of the commissioner of
19 corrections, commissioner of youth services, commissioner of
20 education, chairman of the parole board, and the president of the
21 Massachusetts sheriff's association, and two members with broad
22 experience in public education appointed by the governor, who
23 shall serve staggered terms of three years, or their designees.

24 The purposes of the council shall be to establish guidelines and
 25 minimum criteria and supports for educational programs in the
 26 prisons and houses of correction in the commonwealth.