

By Mrs. Gray of Framingham, petition of Barbara E. Gray and other members of the House that the Department of Correction be required to provide medical and mental health services for female prisoners. Public Safety.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

AN ACT RELATIVE TO THE PROVISION OF ADEQUATE HEALTH AND MENTAL HEALTH CARE TO FEMALE PRISONERS AT MCI-FRAMINGHAM.

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 16 of Chapter 125 of the Massachusetts General Laws
2 is hereby amended by adding the following section:—

3 Section 16A. The department shall develop and implement
4 measures to provide continuity of medical, health, and mental
5 health services and care. Through coordination with the depart-
6 ments of health and mental health, and in order to ensure conti-
7 nuity of care, the department shall develop a system to monitor
8 and track the accessing of records of a female inmate prior to
9 entry into the facility, the obtaining of an adequate and sufficient
10 history of the female inmate upon entry into the facility, the
11 tracking of records throughout confinement, the tracking of
12 records to ensure transitional care during transfers to other facili-
13 ties, to and from hospitals or clinics, conducting periodic reviews
14 of adequacy and quality of care for each female inmate and for the
15 population as a whole, the tracking and accompaniment of records
16 when a female inmate is released from the facility.

17 The department, in consultation with other departments and
18 agencies, shall develop a timely system of access to health care
19 for female inmates, and shall alter current request-for-medical
20 care procedures to accommodate such access through appropriate
21 medical or health care or mental health care staff.

