

# HOUSE . . . . . No. 2087

By Ms. Kerans of Danvers, petition of Sally P. Kerans and other members of the House that the Department of Correction be directed to establish a pilot program for women offenders. Public Safety.

## The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

AN ACT RELATIVE TO CREATING A PILOT CORRECTION PROGRAM FOR WOMEN 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 Section 16 of Chapter 125 as appearing in the Massachusetts  
2 General Laws shall be amended by adding the following new  
3 section: —

4 Section 16A. The Department of Corrections shall be directed  
5 to establish a pilot program in the form of a correctional facility  
6 for female inmates that shall accomplish the following goals:

7 The facility shall be minimum security and shall be conducive  
8 to dormitory style living. It shall be equipped with adequate and  
9 attractive space to permit comfortable overnight visits of children  
10 with their mothers. It shall include common areas for classrooms  
11 and other activities, and adequate open space for exercise.

12 Programming for all inmates of said facility shall include com-  
13 prehensive substance abuse treatment, as indicated for each  
14 inmate, including detoxification programs, frequent, daily access  
15 to 12-step style alcohol and narcotics programs and substance  
16 abuse treatment counseling; education and job-training programs  
17 that ensure all prisoners achieve at least the equivalent of a high  
18 school diploma and/or substantive job training, including  
19 computer literacy and training in vocations that pay salaries above  
20 the minimum wage; a minimum of weekly group and individual  
21 psychological counseling, including a counseling group for  
22 inmates who are mothers and their children to attend together,  
23 and individual counseling for mothers around parenting issues.

24 Weekly life skills and parenting courses shall also be a part of the  
25 facility's programming.

26 Counseling shall be required to aid inmates in finding  
27 appropriate employment before release and, if needed, affordable  
28 housing and child care.

29 A post-release program shall require inmates, as a part of  
30 probation, to report back to the facility for continued counseling  
31 and support at a schedule determined by the counseling staff.

32 A special commission of seven members, drawn from the  
33 Women in Prison Task Force, and representing its various con-  
34 stituencies, shall be appointed by the Governor to meet with  
35 Department of Corrections officials to plan the depth and scope  
36 of the programming structure and content for the pilot corrections  
37 facility for women.