

By Mr. Caron of Springfield, petition of Paul E. Caron and another for legislation to establish a community accountability pilot program in the Hampden County Juvenile Court. The Judiciary.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

AN ACT RELATIVE TO A COMMUNITY ACCOUNTABILITY PROGRAM IN THE HAMPDEN COUNTY JUVENILE COURT.

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. The Department of Youth Services is hereby
2 authorized and directed to establish, in conjunction with Hampden
3 County District Attorney and the Springfield Juvenile Court
4 Probation Department, a pilot Community Accountability
5 Program to place certain juvenile offenders in a supervised work
6 program; provided that such program will offer offender account-
7 ability to the community through the following:—

- 8 (a) supervised work activities;
- 9 (b) restitution to the victim by the offender;
- 10 (c) increased personal responsibility of the offender; and
- 11 (d) increased parental responsibility.

1 SECTION 2. The Springfield Juvenile Court, Juvenile Network
2 Facilitator, hereinafter referred to as the facilitator, shall serve as
3 coordinator for said Community Accountability Program, and
4 shall, in conjunction with the Commissioner of the Department of
5 Youth Services, or his appointee, and the Hampden County
6 District Attorney, or his appointee, administer all aspects of said
7 program.

1 SECTION 3. An offender shall not be eligible for the
2 Community Accountability Program until he or she has been
3 referred to said facilitator by the Springfield Juvenile Court

4 Probation Department; provided that the referral of any offender
5 shall be based on, among other things, the following:—
6 (a) severity of the offense committed; (b) harm or damage caused
7 by said offense; (c) willingness of said offender to participate in
8 said program; (d) the offender's prior criminal record; (e) the
9 needs of the victim in regard to restitution.

1 SECTION 4. The facilitator, with assistance from the probation
2 department, shall monitor the participation of a juvenile entered
3 into the Community Accountability Program. The facilitator
4 will interact with the offender's parents or guardians and the
5 offender's employer to ensure compliance with all aspects of the
6 program. Upon completion of the Community Accountability
7 Program, the facilitator shall notify the Hampden County District
8 Attorney, the Juvenile Court, the probation department and the
9 parent or guardian of such completion. The length of the
10 Community Accountability Program shall be determined by
11 the facilitator, in conjunction with the Commissioner of the
12 Department of Youth Services and the Hampden County District
13 Attorney.

1 SECTION 5. Any corporation or company taking part in the
2 Community Accountability Program by providing employment for
3 the offending juveniles shall be eligible for a tax credit in an
4 amount to be determined by the Department of Revenue.

1 SECTION 6. Monies earned by offending juveniles in the
2 Community Accountability Program shall be used to make restitu-
3 tion to the victims of his or her offense. The facilitator, in con-
4 junction with the Commissioner of the Department of Youth
5 Services and the Hampden County District Attorney's office, shall
6 determine a system of payment of restitution to the victims of
7 juvenile offenders participating in the Community Accountability
8 Program.