

By Ms. Khan of Newton, petition of Kay Khan, Dianne Wilkerson and others for legislation to establish certain pre-release programs for female inmates of correctional institutions. The Judiciary.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PETITION OF:

Kay Khan

Dianne Wilkerson

Michael E. Festa

Anne M. Paulsen

Gloria L. Fox

Deborah D. Blumer

In the Year Two Thousand and Five.

AN ACT REGULATING PROGRAMS OUTSIDE CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTIONS
FOR FEMALE INMATES.

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. Section 49 of Chapter 127 of the Massachusetts
2 General Laws, as appearing in the 2000 Official Edition, is hereby
3 amended by inserting, in line 7, after the word "facility" the
4 following words:— and shall ensure that there exists at all times
5 programs outside correctional facilities available to each female
6 offender who is within eighteen months of parole and eligible for
7 such programs. The Commissioner shall ensure that such pro-
8 grams provide training which is practical and realistic to an
9 inmate's ability to obtain marketable skills for securing mean-
10 ingful employment upon being paroled, and shall offer referral
11 resources for pregnant women who are leaving said facilities, to
12 food and nutrition programs for themselves and for children who
13 are born while the women are confined in facilities.

1 SECTION 2. Said Section 49 of said Chapter 127 of the
2 General Laws, as so appearing, is hereby further amended by
3 inserting, in line 45, after the word "facility", the following
4 words:— In order to facilitate the reintegration of committed

5 female offenders, the Commissioner of the Department of Correc-
6 tion shall insofar as practical ensure that such programs, including
7 pre-release centers, are established in the home communities of
8 inmates eligible for such programs.