

By Ms. Fox of Boston, petition of Gloria L. Fox and other members of the House relative to the care of pregnant women in correctional facilities. Public Safety.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

AN ACT RELATIVE TO THE CARE OF PREGNANT WOMEN IN CORRECTIONAL FACILITIES.

*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. Chapter 127 of the General Laws is hereby  
2 amended by inserting after section 17A the following section: —  
3 Section 17B. Whenever it is determined that a female confined  
4 in any correctional facility is pregnant, adequate prenatal care  
5 shall be made available. Such care shall include but not be limited  
6 to frequent pre-natal visits to a physician, any medical or nutri-  
7 tional items determined to be necessary by a physician, counseling  
8 and parent training, access to milk, fruits and any programs avail-  
9 able to pregnant women, such as WIC and foreign language inter-  
10 preters if needed.

1 SECTION 2. Section 118 of said Chapter 127, as so appearing,  
2 is hereby amended by striking out the last sentence and inserting  
3 in place thereof the following two sentences: — An inmate so  
4 removed shall be kept in such hospital until the physician thereof  
5 shall certify to said commissioner that she is fully recovered and  
6 no longer in need of medical attention, whereupon the commis-  
7 sioner shall issue an order for her return to the correctional  
8 facility. Postnatal examinations by a physician shall be made until  
9 such a physician shall certify to said commissioner that such  
10 examinations are not necessary.

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