No. 2751 HOUSE

By Ms. Khan of Newton, petition of Kay Khan and another 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-Seven.

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:

Section 16 of Chapter 125 of the Massachusetts General Laws

is hereby amended by adding the following section:—

Section 16A. The department shall develop and implement 3

measures to provide continuity of medical, health, and mental health services and care. Through coordination with the depart-

ments of health and mental health, and in order to ensure conti-

nuity of care, the department shall develop a system to monitor

and track the accessing of records of a female inmate prior to

entry into the facility, the obtaining of an adequate and sufficient 9

history of the female inmate upon entry into the facility, the 10 11

tracking of records throughout confinement, the tracking of

records to ensure transitional care during transfers to other facili-12

ties, to and from hospitals or clinics, conducting periodic reviews 13

of adequacy and quality of care for each female inmate and for the 14

15 population as a whole, the tracking and accompaniment of records 16

when a female inmate is released from the facility.

The department, in consultation with other departments and 17 18 agencies, shall develop a timely system of access to health care

for female inmates, and shall alter current request-for-medical 19

care procedures to accommodate such access through appropriate 20

medical or health care or mental health care staff. 21