

HOUSE No. 1171

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Ruth B. Balsler

To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in General Court assembled:

The undersigned legislators and/or citizens respectfully petition for the adoption of the accompanying bill:

An Act relative to ensuring quality mental health services in state correctional facilities.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:
<i>Ruth B. Balsler</i>	<i>12th Middlesex</i>
<i>Stephen L. DiNatale</i>	<i>3rd Worcester</i>
<i>Sean Garballey</i>	<i>23rd Middlesex</i>
<i>Marjorie C. Decker</i>	<i>25th Middlesex</i>
<i>Claire D. Cronin</i>	<i>11th Plymouth</i>
<i>Kenneth I. Gordon</i>	<i>21st Middlesex</i>
<i>David M. Rogers</i>	<i>24th Middlesex</i>
<i>Chris Walsh</i>	<i>6th Middlesex</i>
<i>Peter V. Kocot</i>	<i>1st Hampshire</i>
<i>Paul R. Heroux</i>	<i>2nd Bristol</i>
<i>Tackey Chan</i>	<i>2nd Norfolk</i>
<i>Barbara A. L'Italien</i>	<i>Second Essex and Middlesex</i>
<i>Denise Provost</i>	<i>27th Middlesex</i>
<i>Mary S. Keefe</i>	<i>15th Worcester</i>
<i>Elizabeth A. Malia</i>	<i>11th Suffolk</i>
<i>Tom Sannicandro</i>	<i>7th Middlesex</i>
<i>Kay Khan</i>	<i>11th Middlesex</i>
<i>Jonathan Hecht</i>	<i>29th Middlesex</i>

<i>John J. Mahoney</i>	<i>13th Worcester</i>
<i>Antonio F. D. Cabral</i>	<i>13th Bristol</i>
<i>James B. Eldridge</i>	<i>Middlesex and Worcester</i>
<i>Benjamin Swan</i>	<i>11th Hampden</i>
<i>Carlos Gonzalez</i>	<i>10th Hampden</i>
<i>Sal N. DiDomenico</i>	<i>Middlesex and Suffolk</i>
<i>Michelle M. DuBois</i>	<i>10th Plymouth</i>

HOUSE No. 1171

By Ms. Balsler of Newton, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 1171) of Ruth B. Balsler and others for legislation to establish the Department of Mental Health as the oversight agency for the mental health system within the state prison system. The Judiciary.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

**In the One Hundred and Eighty-Ninth General Court
(2015-2016)**

An Act relative to ensuring quality mental health services in state 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 of Chapter 19 of the General Laws is hereby amended by adding after the third
2 paragraph:

3 The commissioner of mental health shall have supervision over the provision of mental
4 health services to prisoners in the custody of the department of correction, including review and
5 approval of any contract between the department of correction and any other entity concerning
6 the provision of mental health services, and shall establish minimum standards for the effective
7 delivery of such services. At least once each six months the commissioner shall audit each state
8 correctional facility to determine compliance with the minimum standards.