

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 1446**

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**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

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**In the Year Two Thousand Nine**  
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An Act establishing mandatory post release supervision in the Commonwealth..

*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 5 of chapter 27, as appearing in the 2006 Official Edition, is hereby  
2 amended by adding the following at the end of the last sentence of the first paragraph:—

3 The parole board shall administer and oversee mandatory post-release supervision  
4 functions as set forth in section 133D of chapter 127 and chapter 127A.

5 SECTION 2. The General Laws, as so appearing, are hereby further amended by  
6 inserting after chapter 127 the following chapter:—

7 CHAPTER 127A.

8 MANDATORY POST-RELEASE SUPERVISION.

9 Section 1. All sentences to incarceration in a house of correction, jail or state prison shall  
10 include a period of post-release supervision, excluding those for whom parole eligibility is  
11 determined by section 133A of chapter 127. Except as provided in this chapter, for individuals  
12 who complete the incarceration portion of their sentences without supervised release or are re-  
13 incarcerated for the remainder of the sentence for violating the terms of parole or probation, the

14 period of mandatory post-release supervision shall be 25 percent of the maximum term of  
15 incarceration imposed at sentencing but in no case shall be less than nine months. Where an  
16 individual is sentenced to incarceration on multiple offenses, the greater of the maximum terms  
17 imposed at sentencing shall be used to calculate the mandatory post-release supervision period.  
18 Mandatory post-release supervision as established in this chapter shall not be imposed upon any  
19 individual who successfully completes a period of probation imposed by a court at sentencing,  
20 upon an individual who is granted a parole permit under chapter 127 and successfully completes  
21 a period of parole supervision, or upon an individual sentenced to lifetime community parole  
22 under the provisions of section 45 of chapter 265 and section 133D of chapter 127. An individual  
23 subject to the provisions of this chapter may be supervised in another jurisdiction in accordance  
24 with sections 151A through 151L of chapter 127 and shall be considered on parole for the  
25 purposes of supervision.

26           Section 2. Upon release, an individual sentenced to a term of incarceration for not more  
27 than one year in a house of corrections or jail shall be subject to the supervision and jurisdiction  
28 of the office of the commissioner of probation during the period of mandatory post-release  
29 supervision. Upon release, an individual sentenced to a term of incarceration in a house of  
30 corrections or jail for more than one year, or in a state prison for any length of time shall be  
31 subject to the supervision and jurisdiction of the parole board during the period of mandatory  
32 post-release supervision. All persons under such supervision of the office of the commissioner of  
33 probation shall be subject to the provisions of law, rules and regulations governing probation. All  
34 persons under such supervision of the parole board shall be subject to the provisions of law, rules  
35 and regulations governing parole. The commissioner of probation and the chairman of the parole  
36 board shall establish uniform regulations for post-release supervision consistent with applicable

37 provisions of chapter 127 and chapter 276. Nothing in this section or within said regulations shall  
38 limit the authority of the superior, municipal, district or juvenile court to impose conditions of  
39 probation supervision to protect the public or promote the rehabilitation of any person.

40         Section 3. An individual subject to mandatory post-release supervision and who has  
41 successfully completed 9 months of supervision shall be eligible for early termination of such  
42 supervision. In the case of a person under the supervision of the office of the commissioner of  
43 probation, early termination may only occur upon an order of a court of competent jurisdiction.  
44 In the case of a person under the supervision of the parole board, early termination may only  
45 occur in accordance with procedure to be promulgated in the regulations of the parole board. In  
46 all proceedings under this section, the uniform criteria for early termination of mandatory post-  
47 release supervision shall be established jointly by the commissioner of probation and the  
48 chairman of the parole board and shall include, but not be limited to, the amount of time the  
49 individual has successfully spent under post-release supervision, success in finding permanent  
50 employment, success in establishing adequate housing, completing all counseling or substance  
51 abuse treatment programs and successful passing of all mandated post-release testing programs.

52         Section 4. An individual who violates a condition of mandatory post-release supervision  
53 shall be subject to the provisions of this section and subject to modification or revocation  
54 proceedings initiated by the agency responsible for the violator's supervision. The laws and  
55 judicial rules governing probation violation proceedings shall govern such modification or  
56 revocation proceedings for an individual subject to the jurisdiction of the office of the  
57 commissioner of probation. The laws and regulations governing parole violation proceedings  
58 shall govern such modification or revocation proceedings for an individual subject to the  
59 jurisdiction of the parole board. In all proceedings under this section, upon a violation, the

60 individual may be placed under increased supervision, subjected to other conditions and  
61 intermediate sanctions, or incarcerated for not more than the maximum remaining period of post-  
62 release supervision or the remaining unserved portion of the sentence, whichever is greater, if  
63 such violation does not otherwise constitute a criminal offense. In all cases where the individual  
64 is not being incarcerated for a violation, such individual shall participate in an intermediate  
65 sanction through the office of community corrections as established in chapter 211F, the level of  
66 which is to be determined by the commissioner of probation or the chairman of the parole board,  
67 whoever has supervision authority over the individual. In the case of any violation for use of  
68 controlled substances or an offense for operating under the influence of drugs or alcohol, the  
69 period of mandatory post-release supervision shall be extended to accommodate an appropriate  
70 substance abuse program, but the total shall not exceed the maximum supervisory period  
71 permitted by section 1 of chapter 127A. For any violation of the conditions of mandatory post-  
72 release supervision, the period of supervision shall be stayed during a period of incarceration and  
73 it shall be resumed upon release. If such violation constitutes a criminal offense, said period of  
74 incarceration shall be served on and after any sentence received as a result of the new offense.  
75 Upon subsequent release, the greater of the maximum sentences of the original offense and  
76 subsequent offense shall be used to calculate the new mandatory post-release supervision period.

77       Section 5. All mandatory post-release supervision shall be deemed completed if any of  
78 the following conditions are met: except as provided in section 4 of this chapter, the individual  
79 serves a post-release supervision period of 25 percent of the maximum term of incarceration  
80 imposed at sentencing, or nine months, whichever is greater; the individual is granted early  
81 termination under section 3 of this chapter; or if upon completion of the sentence, the individual  
82 is immediately committed to the custody of any other state to serve a period of incarceration

83 greater than or equal to the post-release supervision period required under this chapter; or if upon  
84 completion of the sentence, the individual is immediately committed to the custody of any  
85 federal or immigration authority. Mandatory post-release supervision shall be stayed for any  
86 period an individual is in custody pursuant to any order of custody under chapter 123A.

87 Section 6. Where any provision of this chapter or the application thereof to any person or  
88 circumstance, shall, for any reason, be held invalid, the remainder of this chapter or the  
89 application of such provision to persons or circumstances other than those as to which it is held  
90 invalid shall not be affected thereby.

91 SECTION 3. Section 85 of chapter 276, as so appearing, is hereby amended by adding  
92 the following at the end of the last sentence:—

93 Probation officers powers and duties shall include mandatory post-release supervision as  
94 set forth in chapter 127A.

95 SECTION 4. Section 99 of chapter 276, as so appearing, is hereby amended by adding  
96 the following at the end of the last sentence:—

97 The commissioner shall oversee mandatory post-release supervision functions as set forth  
98 in chapter 127A.

99 SECTION 5. Section 24 of chapter 279, as so appearing, is hereby amended by inserting  
100 in line 6 after the word “convicted” the following words:—

101 and must be at least 20 percent greater than the minimum term.

102 SECTION 6. The provisions of this chapter shall take effect on January 1, 2011 and the  
103 provisions contained herein shall apply to all felonies and misdemeanors committed on or after

104 that date. All offenses committed prior to January 1, 2011 shall be governed by the laws,  
105 including but not limited to those on sentencing, parole, and probation, in effect at the time the  
106 offense is committed.