

HOUSE No. 1580

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand Nine

An Act relative to prisoner re-entry..

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 is hereby amended by inserting after section 49 the following
2 section:

3 CHAPTER 49A. INMATE RE-ENTRY PROGRAMMING

4 Section 1. Each Sheriff (except the Sheriff of Nantucket) shall maintain the authority to
5 develop, implement and revise as periodically necessary, a curriculum of programs and
6 instructional education for inmates sentenced to a House of Correction, provided the
7 superintendent of a correctional facility has recommended that the inmate receive such
8 programming per the requirements of section 49 of this chapter, and shall focus such
9 programming to prepare for and facilitate the inmates' re-entry to the community.

10 Section 2. In conjunction with the curriculum of programs and instructional education
11 referred to in Section 1, each Sheriff (except the Nantucket sheriff), shall, subject to
12 appropriation, maintain responsibility for the development and implementation of a mandatory
13 individual re-entry plan for each county inmate incarcerated in a House of Correction and

14 recommended by the Superintendent for participation in a program of instruction per the
15 requirements of section 49 of this chapter, that will commence prior to the scheduled date of the
16 inmate's release from the House of Correction and continue through and during a pre-determined
17 period of post-release supervision and after-care. The Sheriff shall ensure notification to local
18 law enforcement authorities of the inmate's release.

19 Section 3. The Sheriff's responsibility for implementation of a mandatory individual re-
20 entry plan shall extend for a period not less than 60 days for each ten-month period of the
21 inmate's sentence and not more than a total of 180 days from the date of an inmate's release
22 from the House of Correction. For the period of time allocated to implementation of the
23 mandatory individual re-entry plan, the inmate will be considered under the supervision of the
24 Sheriff.

25 Section 4. The Sheriff may assign lawful terms, conditions and rules to the inmate while
26 such inmate is under post-release supervision of the Sheriff and return such inmate to custody, at
27 any point during implementation of the individual re-entry plan, if the inmate is found to be in
28 violation of said terms, conditions and rules.

29 Section 5. The commissioner of the department of correction or the chairperson of the
30 parole board may enter into interagency agreements with sheriffs for purposes of developing and
31 implementing individual re-entry plans for prisoners in the custody of the department of
32 correction or the parole board who is determined appropriate by classification, history of conduct
33 while in custody and within one year of scheduled release from custody and who otherwise is
34 recommended by the superintendent of a correctional facility for participation in a prisoner re-
35 entry plan. In such instances, the prisoners selected for individual re-entry plans shall be

36 transferred to the supervisory custody of the Sheriff and shall be subject to the rules and policies
37 of the house of correction and, upon implementation of an individual re-entry plan, shall be held
38 to the requirements of said plan.