

**SENATE . . . . . No. 749**

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**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

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**In the Year Two Thousand Nine**  
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An Act creating a jail diversion program..

*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 19 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2006 Official Edition,  
2 are hereby amended by inserting after section 21 the following section:-

3           Section 22. Subject to appropriation, the commissioner shall establish a jail diversion  
4 program. Such program shall provide opportunities to divert individuals with mental illness out  
5 of the criminal justice system and into community based mental health and substance abuse  
6 services where such diversion is clinically appropriate and consistent with public safety. This  
7 program shall establish, monitor and evaluate pilot projects and ongoing programs in cities,  
8 towns or regions of the commonwealth, as determined by the commissioner, taking into  
9 consideration available resources and need, using promising or established program designs for  
10 effectuating clinically appropriate, safe and effective diversion of such individuals.