

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 554**

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**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

PRESENTED BY:

***Byron Rushing***

*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 the treatment of prisoners..

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	DATE ADDED:
<i>Byron Rushing</i>	<i>9th Suffolk</i>	<i>1/18/2011</i>
<i>Patricia D. Jehlen</i>		<i>2/1/2011</i>
<i>Linda Dorcena Forry</i>	<i>12th Suffolk</i>	<i>2/3/2011</i>
<i>Carl M. Sciortino, Jr.</i>	<i>34th Middlesex</i>	<i>1/27/2011</i>
<i>Frank I. Smizik</i>	<i>15th Norfolk</i>	<i>1/28/2011</i>
<i>Joyce A. Spiliotis</i>	<i>12th Essex</i>	<i>1/31/2011</i>
<i>Elizabeth A. Malia</i>	<i>11th Suffolk</i>	<i>2/3/2011</i>
<i>Ruth B. Balsler</i>	<i>12th Middlesex</i>	<i>2/3/2011</i>
<i>Alice K. Wolf</i>	<i>25th Middlesex</i>	<i>2/3/2011</i>
<i>William N. Brownsberger</i>		<i>1/29/2011</i>
<i>Gloria L. Fox</i>	<i>7th Suffolk</i>	<i>2/3/2011</i>
<i>Kay Khan</i>	<i>11th Middlesex</i>	<i>2/4/2011</i>
<i>Ellen Story</i>	<i>3rd Hampshire</i>	<i>2/4/2011</i>
<i>Benjamin Swan</i>	<i>11th Hampden</i>	<i>2/4/2011</i>

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 554**

By Mr. Rushing of Boston, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 554) of Byron Rushing and others relative to the treatment of emotionally disturbed prisoners. Mental Health and Substance Abuse.

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION  
SEE HOUSE, NO. 1947 OF 2009-2010.]

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

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**In the Year Two Thousand Eleven**  
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An Act relative to the treatment of prisoners..

*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 of the General Laws is hereby amended by adding after

2 Section 32 the following new section:—

3 Section 32A. TREATMENT OF EMOTIONALLY DISTURBED PRISONERS

4 (A) Prohibitions Concerning Intervention for Suicide Attempts and Self-Mutilation

5 (1) A prisoner who either commits self-mutilation or attempts suicide shall not be  
6 disciplined

7 or punished for such behavior, nor shall the prisoner be segregated or isolated except to  
8 the

9 extent specifically authorized by medical staff for treatment. The use of “closed solid  
10 door  
11 isolation,” so-called, to punish or manage suicidal or self-mutilating prisoners is  
12 specifically  
13 prohibited.

14 (B) Requirements Concerning Intervention for Suicide Attempts and Self-Mutilation

15 (1) The commissioner shall require that the following steps be taken to insure appropriate  
16 responses to suicide attempts. Institutional staff will be trained in techniques for  
17 responding  
18 to suicide attempts and self-mutilation that ensure the safe and quick extrication of  
19 prisoners  
20 who hang themselves and the provision of necessary first aid. A prisoner who commits  
21 selfmutilation  
22 or attempts suicide shall immediately receive appropriate medical attention and  
23 shall be interviewed by a licensed mental health professional within twelve hours of the  
24 incident, which interview shall be logged in the inmate’s medical record and in the block  
25 log  
26 where the prisoner is located at the time of the interview.