

HOUSE No. 4312

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, May 19, 2016.

The committee on the Judiciary to whom was referred the petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 1475) of Elizabeth A. Malia and others relative to the use of solitary confinement in correctional facilities, reports recommending that the accompanying bill (House, No. 4312) ought to pass.

For the committee,

JOHN V. FERNANDES.

HOUSE No. 4312

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

An Act relative to reentry from segregation.

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 39 of Chapter 127 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2014
2 official edition, is hereby amended by adding the following paragraph:-

3 Any prisoner who is within six months of his or her mandatory release date or parole
4 release date shall not be placed in segregation unless the commissioner, or his or her designee,
5 certifies in writing that the presence of the prisoner in the general population would pose a
6 serious risk of harm to others, or themselves, and all other less-restrictive options have been
7 exhausted.

8 SECTION 2: Chapter 127 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2014 official edition,
9 is hereby amended by inserting after section 39A the following new section:-

10 SECTION 39B. Reentry from segregation

11 Any prisoner within six months of his or her mandatory release date or parole release
12 date and who is held in segregation shall have meaningful access to reentry programming

13 including but not limited to: housing assistance, assistance obtaining state and federal benefits,
14 employment readiness training, and programming designed to help the person rebuild
15 interpersonal relationships, such as anger management and parenting courses.

16 The department shall prepare a reentry plan for every person who is held in segregation at
17 any point within six months of his or her mandatory release date or parole release date.