

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 4012**

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The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, November 6, 2017.

The committee on Ways and Means, to whom was referred the Bill implementing the joint recommendations of the Massachusetts criminal justice review (House, No. 3935), reports recommending that the same ought to pass with an amendment substituting therefor the accompanying bill (House, No. 4012).

For the committee,

JEFFREY SÁNCHEZ.

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**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

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**In the One Hundred and Ninetieth General Court  
(2017-2018)**  
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An Act implementing the joint recommendations of the Massachusetts criminal justice review.

*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 32H of chapter 94C of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2014  
2 Official Edition, is hereby amended by inserting after the figure “127,” in line 15, the following  
3 words:- except as authorized pursuant to section 32H½.

4           SECTION 2. Said section 32H of said chapter 94C, as so appearing, is hereby further  
5 amended by inserting after the figure “32E,” in line 18, the following words:- , section 32H½.

6           SECTION 3. Said chapter 94C is hereby further amended by inserting after section 32H  
7 the following section:-

8           Section 32H ½. (a) As used in this section, the words “ineligible offender” shall have the  
9 following meaning: any person sentenced to a mandatory minimum term of imprisonment in the  
10 state prison upon conviction for (1) violating sections 32, 32F or 32K, or subsection (c) of  
11 section 32E; (2) violating section 32A by knowingly or intentionally manufacturing, distributing,  
12 dispensing, or possessing with intent to manufacture, distribute or dispense a controlled  
13 substance defined in clauses (1), (2) or (3) of paragraph (a), or in clause (6) of paragraph (b) of

14 Class B of section thirty-one or any other offense under this chapter involving the illegal  
15 manufacturing, distribution, dispensing, or possession with intent to manufacture, distribute or  
16 dispense a naturally occurring, synthetic or semi-synthetic opioid; or (3) violating this chapter,  
17 upon a finding of any 1 of the following aggravating circumstances: (i) the person used violence  
18 or threats of violence or possessed a firearm, rifle, shotgun, machine gun or a weapon described  
19 in paragraph (b) of section 10 of chapter 269, or induced another participant to do so, during the  
20 commission of the offense; (ii) the person engaged in a course of conduct whereby he directed  
21 the activities of another who committed any felony in violation of chapter 94C; or (iii) the  
22 offense was committed during the commission or attempted commission of a violation of section  
23 32F or section 32K of chapter 94C.

24 (b) No person serving a mandatory minimum term of imprisonment in the state prison for  
25 violating any provision of this chapter as set forth in section 32H shall be eligible for deductions  
26 from his sentence for good conduct under subsection (b) of section 129D of chapter 127 until he  
27 shall have served such mandatory minimum term of imprisonment. Any person serving a  
28 mandatory minimum term of imprisonment in the state prison for violating any provision of this  
29 chapter as set forth in section 32H shall be eligible for deductions from his sentence for good  
30 conduct under subsection (d) of section 129D of chapter 127, except that an ineligible offender  
31 serving such a mandatory minimum term shall not be eligible for such deductions until the  
32 ineligible offender shall have served such mandatory minimum term of imprisonment.

33 (c) Notwithstanding subsection (i) of section 130B of chapter 127, any person serving a  
34 mandatory minimum term of imprisonment for violating any provision of this chapter set forth in  
35 section 32H shall be eligible for a parole permit pursuant to section 130B of chapter 127 on the  
36 date determined under subsection (a) of said section 130B, except that an ineligible offender

37 shall not be eligible for such a permit until the ineligible offender shall have served such  
38 mandatory minimum term of imprisonment.

39 (d) Any person serving a mandatory minimum term of imprisonment in the state prison  
40 for violating any provision of this chapter set forth in section 32H shall be eligible for work  
41 release, except that an ineligible offender serving such a mandatory minimum term shall not be  
42 eligible for work release until such ineligible offender has served such mandatory minimum term  
43 of imprisonment

44 SECTION 4. Subsection (g) of section 1 of chapter 124 of the General Laws is hereby  
45 amended by inserting after the word “and,” in line 34, the following words:- , after consultation  
46 with the parole board,.

47 SECTION 5. Chapter 127 of the General Laws is hereby amended by striking out section  
48 129D and inserting in place thereof the following section:-

49 Section 129D. Prisoners are eligible to earn deductions from sentences and completion  
50 credits, collectively known as good conduct deductions, for participation in and completion of  
51 programs and activities as follows:

52 (a) For the satisfactory conduct of a prisoner while confined at a correctional institution  
53 of the commonwealth, or any jail or house of correction, but working at a state hospital or state  
54 school, satisfactory completion of an educational program leading to the award of a high school  
55 equivalency certificate, satisfactory performance of said prisoner in completion of any other  
56 educational sequence or any vocational training program established within or without the  
57 institution, satisfactory performance of said inmate when he is employed on work-release or in a  
58 prison industry, or satisfactory performance of said inmates in any other program or activity

59 which the superintendent of the institution shall deem valuable to said prisoner's rehabilitation,  
60 the commissioner may grant, in addition to the deductions of sentence provided under section  
61 129C, a further deduction of sentence pursuant to this section. For a prisoner serving a sentence  
62 to the state prison, such deduction shall not exceed 7.5 days per program or activity for each  
63 month while said prisoner is working in a state hospital or school, on work-release or working in  
64 a prison industry, or partaking in any of the said programs or activities as aforesaid; provided,  
65 however, that in no event shall said deductions exceed a maximum monthly total of 15 days. For  
66 a prisoner serving a sentence to the house of correction, such deduction shall not exceed 5 days  
67 per program or activity for each month while said prisoner is working in a state hospital or  
68 school, on work-release or working in a prison industry, or partaking in any of the said programs  
69 or activities as aforesaid; provided, however, that in no event shall said deductions exceed a  
70 maximum monthly total of 10 days. Further, the commissioner may grant an additional  
71 deduction of sentence of up to 10 days for a prisoner's successful completion of a program or  
72 activity, as designated by the commissioner, to be deducted in the month during which successful  
73 completion of the designated program or activity is achieved; provided, however, that for a  
74 prisoner serving a sentence to the house of correction, such additional deduction of sentence  
75 shall be granted only for completion of a program or activity requiring 6 months of satisfactory  
76 participation.

77 (b) All such deductions of sentence shall be added to any deduction to which the prisoner  
78 is entitled under section 129C for reducing the term of imprisonment by deduction from the  
79 maximum term for which the prisoner may be held under the prisoner's sentence or sentences;  
80 provided, however, that in no event shall such deductions reduce the imposed maximum term or  
81 aggregate maximum terms by more than 35 per cent.

82 (c) In addition to the foregoing, the commissioner may also grant up to 80 days of  
83 completion credits to a prisoner serving a sentence to the state prison for successful completion  
84 of a program or activity, as designated by the commissioner, to be granted in the month during  
85 which successful completion of the designated program or activity is achieved; provided,  
86 however, that in no event shall the aggregate number of completion credits awarded to a prisoner  
87 exceed a maximum of 17.5 per cent of such prisoner's imposed maximum term of imprisonment.

88 (d) Such deductions granted under subsection (a) and such completion credits granted  
89 under subsection (c) shall be added to any deduction to which the prisoner is entitled under  
90 section 129C for reducing from the minimum term of the sentence or sentences the good conduct  
91 credits earned under this section for parole eligibility as provided under section 133; provided,  
92 however, that in no event shall said deductions and such completion credits reduce such imposed  
93 minimum term by more than 35 per cent.

94 (e) No prisoner shall be eligible for any deduction under subsection (a) or any completion  
95 credit under subsection (c) unless he has satisfied both the requirements of the program or  
96 activity and demonstrated competency in the material, as determined by the commissioner.

97 (f) A prisoner whose term of imprisonment is reduced from the maximum term for which  
98 he may be held under his sentence or sentences shall receive from the commissioner a certificate  
99 of discharge on the date which has been determined by such additional deductions from the  
100 maximum term of his sentence or sentences.

101 SECTION 6. Section 130 of chapter 127 of the General Laws, as amended by chapter  
102 165 of the acts of 2014, is hereby further amended by striking out the ninth sentence and  
103 inserting in place thereof the following sentence:-

104           A prisoner to whom a parole permit is granted shall be allowed to go upon parole outside  
105 prison walls and inclosure upon such terms and conditions as the parole board shall prescribe,  
106 but shall remain, while thus on parole, subject to the jurisdiction of such board until the  
107 expiration of the term of imprisonment to which he has been sentenced or until the date which  
108 has been determined by deductions from the maximum term of his sentence or sentences for  
109 good conduct and any further deductions for compliance credits granted pursuant to section  
110 130C, provided that such combined deductions shall not exceed 35 per cent of the term of  
111 imprisonment to which he has been sentenced or until such earlier date as the board shall  
112 determine that it is in the public interest for such prisoner to be granted a certificate of  
113 termination of sentence.

114           SECTION 7. Chapter 127 of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after  
115 section 130A the following 2 sections:-

116           Section 130B. (a) As used in this section, the following terms shall have the following  
117 meanings:

118           “Parole plan” shall mean a plan, approved by the Parole Board, that includes the general  
119 and special conditions of parole and requirements for: (a) a parolee’s physical address and co-  
120 habitants, if any; (b) verification of employment, efforts to seek employment or inability to  
121 obtain employment; and (c) an initial reporting date on which the parolee must report in person  
122 to a parole field office.

123           “Release to supervision date” shall mean the date which has been determined by  
124 deductions from the maximum term of a prisoner’s sentence for good conduct deductions under  
125 subsection (a) of section 129D and a further deduction for any program completion credits

126 earned under subsection (c) of section 129D; provided that in no event shall such date be earlier  
127 than the date which has been determined by reducing a prisoner's imposed maximum term of  
128 sentence by 35 per cent.

129 (b) Notwithstanding sections 133 and 136 and the first eight sentences of section 130, if a  
130 prisoner serving a sentence to state prison has not been granted a parole permit by the prisoner's  
131 release to supervision date, then the parole board shall issue a parole permit to that prisoner for  
132 the remainder of his sentence, as reduced by any good conduct deductions pursuant to section  
133 129D(b); provided, however, that in no event shall a parole permit issue pursuant to this section  
134 unless the prisoner has been awarded at least 30 days of completion credits under section  
135 129D(c); and provided further, however, that in no event shall a parole permit issue pursuant to  
136 this section unless the prospective parolee submits a parole plan approved by the parole board.

137 (c) The terms and conditions of the prisoner's parole shall be determined by the parole  
138 board. The parole board's determination of such terms and conditions under this section shall  
139 not be the subject of judicial review. Such terms and conditions may be revised, altered and  
140 amended, and may be revoked, by the parole board at any time. The violation by the holder of  
141 such permit or any of its terms or conditions, or of any law of the commonwealth, may render  
142 such permit void, and thereupon, or if such permit has been revoked, the parole board may order  
143 his arrest and his return to prison, in accordance with the provisions of sections 149 and 149A.

144 (d) If a prisoner has two or more sentences to be served otherwise than concurrently, the  
145 maximum term of his sentence for purposes of subsection (a) shall be the aggregate maximum  
146 term of such sentences. If a prisoner has two or more sentences to be served concurrently, the



147 maximum term of his sentence for purposes of subsection (a) shall be the maximum term of the  
148 latest date of such sentences.

149 (e) A parolee whose permit to be at liberty has been issued pursuant to this section shall  
150 enjoy the same privileges and be subject to the same rules, policies, procedures and jurisdiction  
151 of the parole board, as if his parole permit had been granted by the parole board pursuant to any  
152 other statute authorizing the parole board to grant such permits.

153 (f) The commissioner shall make available to the parole board all information in his  
154 possession relating to any prisoner whose case is under consideration. Such information to be  
155 made available shall include the following: (i) information concerning the prisoner's conduct in  
156 prison, including a statement as to all infractions of prison rules and discipline, all punishments  
157 meted out to such prisoner, and the circumstances connected therewith, (ii) information  
158 concerning the extent to which such prisoner has responded to the efforts made in prison to  
159 improve his mental and moral condition, including to the extent available, information as to the  
160 prisoner's attitude toward society, toward those responsible for his arrest, prosecution, and  
161 conviction, and how the prisoner then regards the crime for which he is in prison and his  
162 previous criminal career; (iii) information concerning the prisoner's industrial record while in  
163 prison, the nature of his occupations while in prison, and recommendations as are available as to  
164 the kind of work he is best fitted to perform and at which he is most likely to succeed when he  
165 leaves prison; (iv) information concerning the results of such physical, mental and psychiatric  
166 examinations as have been made of such prisoner which so far as practicable shall have been  
167 made within two months of the time of his release on parole; (v) information concerning the  
168 prisoner's social, physical, mental and psychiatric condition and history; (vi) information  
169 concerning the prisoner's record of participation in available work opportunities and education or

170 treatment programs and demonstrated good behavior while in prison, including a description of  
171 each program completed by the prisoner, the number of completion credits granted to the  
172 prisoner for each program completed, and the date on which the prisoner's permit to be at liberty  
173 shall expire; and (vii) information concerning the crime or crimes for which the prisoner is then  
174 sentenced, including the circumstances of such crime or crimes, the nature of his sentence or  
175 sentences, the court in which he was sentenced, the name of the judge and district attorney, and  
176 copies of such probation reports as may have been made.

177           These records shall be made available to the parole board so as to be readily accessible  
178 when the parole or pardon of such prisoner is being considered.

179           (g) This section shall not apply to prisoners serving a Massachusetts sentence in a  
180 correctional institution of another state or the federal government.

181           (h) This section shall not apply to prisoners in the custody of the department of  
182 correction but who are serving a sentence imposed by another state or the federal government.

183           (i) A person ineligible for parole because he is serving a mandatory minimum term of  
184 imprisonment shall not, until he shall have served such mandatory minimum term of  
185 imprisonment, be eligible for a parole permit under subsection (b), except as otherwise provided  
186 by law. Habitual offenders sentenced under subsection (b) of section 25 of chapter 279 shall not  
187 be eligible for a parole permit under subsection (b).

188           Section 130C. (a) For the satisfactory conduct of a parolee under the supervision of the  
189 parole board who is serving a sentence to state prison, the chairman of the parole board or his  
190 designee may grant compliance credits of up to a maximum monthly total of 15 days; provided,  
191 however, that no compliance credits may be granted to a person serving a mandatory minimum

192 sentence until he shall have served the mandatory minimum term. Any compliance credits so  
193 granted and not rescinded pursuant to subsection (b) shall reduce the period of time that a parolee  
194 is subject to the jurisdiction of the parole board under section 130.

195 (b) The parole board shall issue regulations governing the rescission of compliance  
196 credits for violation of the terms and conditions of parole.

197 (c) The award or rescission of credits pursuant to this section shall not be the subject of  
198 judicial review.

199 (d) This section shall not apply to a prisoner who has been sentenced for life.

200 (e) This section shall not apply to a parolee who received his parole permit pursuant to  
201 section 130B.

202 SECTION 8. Section 1 of chapter 211F of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2014  
203 Official Edition, is hereby amended by adding the following 2 definitions:-

204 “Pretrial services plan”, a written proposal submitted to the executive director for  
205 approval and funding as a pretrial services program.

206 “Pretrial services program”, any program that is operated by a state, local, or private  
207 service agency, that the office of community corrections has deemed appropriate for a person  
208 awaiting trial. Pretrial service programs shall be a separate track of programming from  
209 community correction programs offered under section 3 of this chapter. Sanctions under said  
210 section 3 shall not be applicable to the pretrial service program track.

211 SECTION 9. Section 2 of said chapter 211F, as so appearing, is hereby amended by  
212 inserting after the word “of”, in line 3, the following words:- pretrial services program and.

213 SECTION 10. Said section 2 of said chapter 211F, as so appearing, is hereby further  
214 amended by inserting the word “developing,” in line 5, the following words:- pretrial services  
215 programs and.

216 SECTION 11. Said section 2 of said chapter 211F, as so appearing, is hereby further  
217 amended by inserting after the word “corrections,” in line 9, the following words:- and pretrial  
218 services.

219 SECTION 12. Said chapter 211F is hereby amended by inserting after section 3 the  
220 following 2 sections:-

221 Section 3A. (a) Participation in a pretrial services program may be ordered by the court,  
222 in lieu of bail or as a condition of release consistent with sections 57, 58, and 58A of chapter  
223 276. The court may dictate the duration and conditions of the pretrial services program. Any  
224 conditions should be imposed to ensure return of the defendant to court or, where permitted by  
225 law, to assure the safety of any person or the community.

226 (b) The probation department may utilize pretrial services programs for pretrial  
227 supervision consistent with sections 87 and 87A of chapter 276, upon agreement by the person  
228 before the court who is charged with an offense or crime.

229 (c) If the sheriff who has custody of a person held on bail under section 57 or 58 of  
230 chapter 276 determines that the person would benefit from entering a pretrial services program,  
231 the sheriff shall provide a written recommendation of such determination to the court, the  
232 commissioner of probation, the prosecuting office, and the person, or where applicable the  
233 person’s attorney. The prosecuting office may notify the victim of the sheriff’s recommendation  
234 upon receipt of such recommendation. If the commissioner of probation or the prosecuting office

235 objects to such recommendation, they shall file a written objection with the court within fourteen  
236 days of receipt of such notice. Upon receipt of such objection, the court may set the matter for  
237 hearing. After expiration of the time for filing objections and after hearing, if applicable, the  
238 court shall either decline to modify its earlier bail order or make an order under subsection (a) of  
239 this section authorizing the person's participation in a pretrial services program. In no event shall  
240 the person held on bail be ordered under this paragraph to enter a pretrial services program  
241 without that person's consent.

242 (d) Placement of a person in a pretrial services program shall require victim notification  
243 as required under subsection (t) of section 3 of chapter 258B.

244 Section 3B. (a) For any person sentenced to probation supervision who has not been  
245 sentenced to a community corrections program under section 3 of this chapter, the probation  
246 department may utilize programs offered through a community corrections program:

247 (1) for participation in court-ordered programming where such programming is available  
248 through the community corrections program; or

249 (2) upon agreement by the person so sentenced.

250 (b) The use of programs under subsection (a) of section 3B of this chapter shall not  
251 operate as an intermediate sanctions program as defined in section 1 of this chapter.

252 SECTION 13. Section 4 of said chapter 211F, as appearing in the 2014 Official Edition,  
253 is hereby amended by inserting after the word "plans," in line 3, the following:- and pretrial  
254 services plans.

255 SECTION 14. Section 5 of said chapter 211F, as so appearing, is hereby amended by  
256 inserting after the word “commitments,” in line 10, the following words:- , reducing pretrial  
257 detention and increasing the court appearance rate.

258 SECTION 15. Chapter 276 of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after  
259 section 87A the following section:-

260 Section 87B.

261 (a) As used in section 87B, the following words shall have the following meanings:

262 “Compliance” shall mean the absence of a judicial finding of a violation of court-ordered  
263 conditions of post-disposition probation supervision.

264 “Compliance credits” shall mean credits that an eligible offender earns through  
265 compliance with court-ordered terms of post-disposition probation supervision. Such credits  
266 shall operate to reduce the length of post-disposition probation supervision.

267 “Eligible offender” shall mean an offender whose sentence includes incarceration  
268 followed by a term of probation supervision upon conviction of one or more criminal offenses  
269 and has been released to probation after serving the incarcerated sentence or incarcerated portion  
270 of the sentence, excluding any person who is under post-disposition supervision for a sex offense  
271 as defined in section 178C of chapter 6.

272 (b) An eligible offender shall earn compliance credits as follows:

273 (i) An eligible offender shall begin to accrue compliance credits on the first day of the  
274 calendar month following one year of supervision on probation.

275 (ii) After completing one year of supervision on probation up to and including  
276 completion of two years of supervision on probation, on the first day of each calendar month, an  
277 eligible offender shall earn 5 days of compliance credits if the eligible offender was in  
278 compliance for the prior calendar month.

279 (iii) After completing two years of supervision, on the first day of each calendar month,  
280 an eligible offender shall earn 10 days of compliance credits if the eligible offender was in  
281 compliance for the previous calendar month.

282 (c) Compliance credits shall not accrue during any calendar month in which a violation of  
283 probation is pending. Once a violation of probation hearing is held, if the court does not find a  
284 violation, compliance credits shall be awarded retroactive to the filing of the violation.

285 (d) If the court finds a violation of court-ordered conditions of post-disposition probation  
286 supervision, then (i) the eligible offender may not be awarded compliance credits for the time  
287 during which the violation was pending; and (ii), the court may also revoke any earned  
288 compliance credits. If the court places the eligible offender in a correctional institution upon  
289 revocation, any compliance credits previously earned by the eligible offender shall be revoked.

290 (e) Quarterly the Probation Service shall calculate an eligible offender's supervision  
291 termination date, taking into consideration any earned compliance credits. Upon such  
292 calculation, the Probation Service shall inform the eligible offender of the termination date.

293 (f) At sentencing, the court shall notify an eligible offender that compliance with post-  
294 disposition supervision conditions shall result in earning compliance credits.

295 SECTION 16. Section 32H1/2 of chapter 94C of the General Laws shall apply to any  
296 sentence for an offense committed after the effective date of this act.

297 SECTION 17. Any offender who has been granted a parole permit prior to the effective  
298 date of this act shall not be eligible to earn compliance credits under section 130C of chapter 127  
299 of the General Laws.

300 SECTION 18. Subsections (a) and (b) of section 3A of chapter 211F of the General  
301 Laws shall apply to persons charged after the effective date of this act and to persons held in jail  
302 beginning on the effective date of this act.

303 SECTION 19. Section 3B of chapter 211F shall apply to persons on probation  
304 supervision on or after the effective date of this act.

305 SECTION 20. Any offender who has started probation supervision prior to the effective  
306 date of this act shall not be eligible to earn compliance credits under section 87B of chapter 276  
307 of the General Laws.

308 SECTION 21. This act shall take effect nine months after passage.