

SENATE No. 1278

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Michael J. Barrett

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 protecting in-person visitation for inmates.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	
<i>Michael J. Barrett</i>	<i>Third Middlesex</i>	
<i>James B. Eldridge</i>	<i>Middlesex and Worcester</i>	<i>1/30/2017</i>
<i>Mary S. Keefe</i>	<i>15th Worcester</i>	<i>1/31/2017</i>
<i>Sal N. DiDomenico</i>	<i>Middlesex and Suffolk</i>	<i>2/3/2017</i>

SENATE No. 1278

By Mr. Barrett, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 1278) of Michael J. Barrett, James B. Eldridge, Mary S. Keefe and Sal N. DiDomenico for legislation to protect in-person visitation for inmates. Public Safety and Homeland Security.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

**In the One Hundred and Ninetieth General Court
(2017-2018)**

An Act protecting in-person visitation for inmates.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1 Chapter 127 of the of the Massachusetts General Laws, as appearing in the 2014 Official
2 Edition, is hereby amended by adding the following section:

3 Section 36 ½. No commissioner or superintendent of a correctional institution of the
4 commonwealth or any jail or house of correction in the commonwealth or the keeper of such jail
5 or house of correction may prohibit, eliminate or unreasonably or unjustifiably limit in-person
6 visitation of inmates, nor may such commissioner, superintendent, or keeper enter into any
7 arrangement with any vendor that prohibits, eliminates or limits in-person visitation of inmates,
8 nor may such commissioner, superintendent, or keeper coerce, compel, or otherwise pressure an
9 inmate to forego or limit in-person visitation. Nothing in this section shall be construed to
10 prohibit temporary suspension of visitation privileges for individual inmates for misbehavior, nor
11 temporary suspension of visitation privileges within a facility for the duration of a bonafide

12 emergency, provided that in-person visitation shall be restored as soon as is practicable after the
13 resolution of said emergency.