

HOUSE No. 1461

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Ruth B. Balsler

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 ensuring quality mental health services in state correctional facilities.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	DATE ADDED:
<i>Ruth B. Balsler</i>	<i>12th Middlesex</i>	<i>1/19/2021</i>
<i>Marjorie C. Decker</i>	<i>25th Middlesex</i>	<i>2/9/2021</i>
<i>Thomas M. Stanley</i>	<i>9th Middlesex</i>	<i>2/24/2021</i>
<i>Lindsay N. Sabadosa</i>	<i>1st Hampshire</i>	<i>2/24/2021</i>

HOUSE No. 1461

By Ms. Balsler of Newton, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 1461) of Ruth B. Balsler and others for legislation to establish the Department of Mental Health as the oversight agency for the mental health system within the state prison system. The Judiciary.

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION
SEE HOUSE, NO. 1339 OF 2019-2020.]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

**In the One Hundred and Ninety-Second General Court
(2021-2022)**

An Act relative to ensuring quality mental health services in state correctional facilities.

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 of Chapter 19 of the General Laws is hereby amended by adding after the third
2 paragraph:

3 The commissioner of mental health shall have supervision over the provision of mental
4 health services to prisoners in the custody of the department of correction, including review and
5 approval of any contract between the department of correction and any other entity concerning
6 the provision of mental health services, and shall establish minimum standards for the effective
7 delivery of such services. At least once each six months the commissioner shall audit each state
8 correctional facility to determine compliance with the minimum standards.