

HOUSE No. 3882

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Chynah Tyler

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 prison reform.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	DATE ADDED:
<i>Chynah Tyler</i>	<i>7th Suffolk</i>	<i>2/18/2021</i>

HOUSE No. 3882

By Ms. Tyler of Boston, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 3882) of Chynah Tyler for legislation to a review of the impact and effectiveness of facility programming by the Department of Correction including a special commission (including members of the General Court) relative to the effects of health care in department facilities and a special commission (including members of the General Court) relative to the effects of confinement in the departmental disciplinary unit on the mental health and wellness of prisoners. The Judiciary.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

An Act relative to prison reform.

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. Study and review of the impact and effectiveness of DOC facility
2 programming.

3 SECTION 2. Section 48 of chapter 127 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2018
4 Official Edition, is hereby amended by adding the following paragraph:-

5 The commissioner shall ensure that all county correctional facilities, state correctional
6 facilities and state prisons maintain a partnership with a public institution of higher education, as
7 identified in section 5 of chapter 15A, for the purposes of developing educational programming
8 for prisoners and to allow prisoners with a high school diploma or its equivalent to obtain course
9 credit toward an associate’s degree or bachelor’s degree from the public institution of higher
10 education.

11 SECTION 3. Said chapter 127 is hereby amended by adding the following section:-

12 Section 170. The department shall, in consultation with the department of public health,
13 develop nutrition standards to ensure the provision of healthy food options to prisoners in
14 department facilities.

15 SECTION 4. (a) There shall be a commission to review and make recommendations on
16 the effects of health care in department of corrections facilities, including county correctional
17 facilities, state correctional facilities and state prisons.

18 (b) The commission shall consist of the following 15 members: the chairs of the joint
19 committee on public health or their designees, who shall serve as co-chairs; the secretary of the
20 executive office of public safety or their designee; the commissioner of correction or their
21 designee; the commissioner of public health or their designee; 2 members to be appointed by the
22 speaker of the house of representatives; 2 members to be appointed by the senate president; 2
23 members to be appointed by the chair of the Massachusetts Black and Latino Legislative Caucus;
24 2 members to be appointed by the governor, 1 of whom shall be a formerly incarcerated person;
25 the executive director of Prisoners' Legal Services of Massachusetts or their designee; and the
26 president of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People New England
27 Area Conference or a designee.

28 (c) The commission shall report and file its findings and recommendations, including any
29 legislation, with the clerks of the house of representatives and senate and the joint committee on
30 public safety and security not later than January 1, 2022.

31 SECTION 5. (a) There shall be a commission to study and make recommendations
32 relative to the effects of confinement in the departmental disciplinary unit, also known as the
33 DDU, on the mental health and wellness of prisoners.

34 (b) The commission shall consist of the following 15 members: the chairs of the joint
35 committee on mental health, substance abuse and recovery or their designees, who shall serve as
36 co-chairs; the secretary of the executive office of public safety or their designee; the
37 commissioner of correction or their designee; the commissioner of public health or their
38 designee; 2 members to be appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives; 2 members
39 to be appointed by the senate president; 2 members to be appointed by the chair of the
40 Massachusetts Black and Latino Legislative Caucus; 2 members to be appointed by the governor,
41 1 of whom shall be a formerly incarcerated person; the executive director of Prisoners' Legal
42 Services of Massachusetts or their designee; and the president of the National Association for the
43 Advancement of Colored People New England Area Conference or a designee.

44 (c) The commission shall report and file its findings and recommendations, including
45 any legislation, with the clerks of the house of representatives and senate and the joint committee
46 on public safety and security not later than January 1, 2022.