

**SENATE . . . . . No. 1548**

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**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

PRESENTED BY:

*Harriette L. Chandler*

*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 to reduce recidivism and promote family relationships during incarceration.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	
<i>Harriette L. Chandler</i>	<i>First Worcester</i>	
<i>Elizabeth A. Malia</i>	<i>11th Suffolk</i>	<i>2/24/2021</i>
<i>Mary S. Keefe</i>	<i>15th Worcester</i>	<i>6/25/2021</i>

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By Ms. Chandler, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 1548) of Harriette L. Chandler and Elizabeth A. Malia for legislation to reduce recidivism and promote family relationships during incarceration. Public Safety and Homeland Security.

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**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

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

An Act to reduce recidivism and promote family relationships during incarceration.

*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 36C of Chapter 127 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2018  
2 Official Edition, is hereby amended by inserting this paragraph at the end: -

3           Every guard, corrections officer and employee of a correctional institution, jail or house  
4 of correction, and every guard or employee of a medical facility who regularly interacts with  
5 individuals who are incarcerated that are being held in their medical facility, shall be required to  
6 attend a training session and receive educational information on: (1) the importance of ongoing  
7 visitation to individuals who are incarcerated as related to reducing recidivism, violence and  
8 increasing successful re-entry; and (2) the importance of civility and respectful conduct toward  
9 family members and other members of the public who visit individuals who are incarcerated so  
10 as to encourage visitation on a regular basis while maintaining security. Training materials and  
11 educational information shall be developed in consultation with representatives of the  
12 Massachusetts Bar Association, the Women’s Bar Association, Prisoners Legal Services, the

13 Criminal Justice Reform Caucus, ex-prisoners community based organizations, and community  
14 based re-entry programs; and prior to implementation shall be submitted to the joint committee  
15 on the judiciary and the joint committee on public safety and homeland security.