

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 2411**

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**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 the spread of COVID-19 in correctional facilities.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	DATE ADDED:
<i>Chynah Tyler</i>	<i>7th Suffolk</i>	<i>1/17/2023</i>

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 2411**

By Representative Tyler of Boston, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 2411) of Chynah Tyler relative to the spread of COVID-19 in correctional facilities. Public Safety and Homeland Security.

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION  
SEE HOUSE, NO. 3886 OF 2021-2022.]

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

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**In the One Hundred and Ninety-Third General Court  
(2023-2024)**  
\_\_\_\_\_

An Act relative to the spread of COVID-19 in correctional facilities.

*Whereas*, The deferred operation of this act would tend to defeat its purpose, which is to ensure regular testing of correctional facility staff members during the COVID-19 outbreak in the Commonwealth, therefore it is hereby declared to be an emergency law, necessary for the immediate preservation of the public health and convenience.

*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. For the purposes of this act, the following words shall, unless the context  
2 clearly requires otherwise, have the following meanings:-

3 “Administrator”, chief administrative officer of a county correctional facility.

4 “Correctional facility”, any building, enclosure, space or structure used for the custody,  
5 control and rehabilitation of committed offenders and of such other persons as may be placed in  
6 custody therein in accordance with law.

7           “County correctional facility” or “jail”, any correctional facility or jail owned, operated,  
8 administered or subject to the control of a county of the commonwealth.

9           “State correctional facility” or “prison”, any correctional facility or prison owned,  
10 operated, administered or subject to the control of the department of correction, including but not  
11 limited to: Massachusetts Correctional Institution, Cedar Junction; Massachusetts Correctional  
12 Institution, Norfolk; Massachusetts Correctional Institution, Concord; Massachusetts  
13 Correctional Institution, Framingham; Massachusetts Correctional Institution, Shirley; Souza-  
14 Baranowski Correctional Center; and Bridgewater State Hospital.

15           “Superintendent”, the chief administrative officer of a state correctional facility or prison.

16           SECTION 2. (a) Prior to starting a shift, each employee, including correctional officers,  
17 of a state correctional facility or county correctional facility shall be provided with and take a  
18 COVID-19 rapid antigen test before entering the facility. Individual employees shall produce a  
19 negative test before entering a site at the start of each work day.

20           (b) In a state correctional facility, the superintendent shall be responsible for providing  
21 tests and ensuring that only employees who test negative for COVID-19 enter the state  
22 correctional facility. In a county correctional facility, the administrator shall be responsible for  
23 providing tests and ensuring that only employees who test negative for COVID-19 enter the  
24 county correctional facility.