

SENATE No. 1979

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Joanne M. Comerford

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 establishing a jail and prison construction moratorium.

PETITION OF:

Table with 3 columns: NAME, DISTRICT/ADDRESS, and Date. Lists 18 petitioners including Joanne M. Comerford, Jason M. Lewis, Michael J. Barrett, Rebecca L. Rausch, Mike Connolly, Jack Patrick Lewis, Steven Owens, Sal N. DiDomenico, Patricia D. Jehlen, Liz Miranda, Kay Khan, Vanna Howard, James B. Eldridge, Cindy F. Friedman, Danillo A. Sena, Lydia Edwards, Mary S. Keefe, and Mindy Domb.

Manny Cruz

7th Essex

1/8/2024

Russell E. Holmes

6th Suffolk

3/10/2024

SENATE No. 1979

By Ms. Comerford, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 1979) of Joanne M. Comerford, Jason M. Lewis, Michael J. Barrett, Rebecca L. Rausch and other members of the General Court for legislation to establish a jail and prison construction moratorium. State Administration and Regulatory Oversight.

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION
SEE SENATE, NO. 2030 OF 2021-2022.]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

An Act establishing a jail and prison construction moratorium.

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. Chapter 7C of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after
2 section 72 the following section:-

3 Section 73. (a) For the purposes of this section, the term “correctional facility” shall have
4 the same meaning as provided in section 1 of chapter 125.

5 (b) Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, a state agency or public
6 agency shall not:

7 (i) study, plan, design, acquire, lease, search for sites, or construct new correctional
8 facilities or detention centers;

9 (ii) expand the capacity of an existing correctional facility or detention center beyond its
10 current design or rated capacity;

11 (iii) convert any part of an existing or dormant correctional facility or detention center for
12 the purpose of detention or incarceration, including to change or expand the populations
13 incarcerated in that facility or center;

14 (iv) renovate an existing or dormant correctional facility or detention center beyond
15 requirements for maintenance or to comply with building code requirements; or

16 (v) repair an existing or dormant correctional facility or detention center for the purposes
17 of expanding the facility or center, or increasing its bed capacity.

18 SECTION 2. Section 73 of chapter 7C of the General Laws is hereby repealed.

19 SECTION 3. Section 2 shall take effect 5 years after the effective date of this act.