

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 1475**

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

*Elizabeth A. Malia*

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, curb unnecessary spending, and ensure appropriate use of segregation.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:
<i>Elizabeth A. Malia</i>	<i>11th Suffolk</i>
<i>Ruth B. Balse</i>	<i>12th Middlesex</i>
<i>Michael J. Barrett</i>	<i>Third Middlesex</i>
<i>Kay Khan</i>	<i>11th Middlesex</i>
<i>Tom Sannicandro</i>	<i>7th Middlesex</i>
<i>Claire D. Cronin</i>	<i>11th Plymouth</i>
<i>David M. Rogers</i>	<i>24th Middlesex</i>
<i>Ellen Story</i>	<i>3rd Hampshire</i>
<i>John W. Scibak</i>	<i>2nd Hampshire</i>
<i>Denise Provost</i>	<i>27th Middlesex</i>
<i>Marjorie C. Decker</i>	<i>25th Middlesex</i>
<i>Gloria L. Fox</i>	<i>7th Suffolk</i>
<i>Byron Rushing</i>	<i>9th Suffolk</i>
<i>Patricia D. Jehlen</i>	<i>Second Middlesex</i>
<i>Kenneth I. Gordon</i>	<i>21st Middlesex</i>
<i>John J. Mahoney</i>	<i>13th Worcester</i>
<i>James B. Eldridge</i>	<i>Middlesex and Worcester</i>

<i>Benjamin Swan</i>	<i>11th Hampden</i>
<i>Chris Walsh</i>	<i>6th Middlesex</i>
<i>Sal N. DiDomenico</i>	<i>Middlesex and Suffolk</i>
<i>Paul R. Heroux</i>	<i>2nd Bristol</i>

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 1475**

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By Ms. Malia of Boston, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 1475) of Elizabeth A. Malia and others relative to the use of solitary confinement in correctional facilities. The Judiciary.

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[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION  
SEE HOUSE, NO. 1486 OF 2013-2014.]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

\_\_\_\_\_  
**In the One Hundred and Eighty-Ninth General Court  
(2015-2016)**  
\_\_\_\_\_

An Act to reduce recidivism, curb unnecessary spending, and ensure appropriate use of segregation.

*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 1 of chapter 127 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2012  
2 official edition, is hereby amended by inserting the following definitions:

3 “Disciplinary segregation,” the segregation of a prisoner from the general population, in a  
4 segregated unit or other housing unit, for the purpose of disciplining the prisoner.

5 “Non-disciplinary segregation,” the segregation of a prisoner from the general  
6 population, in a segregated unit or other housing unit, for administrative purposes or for reasons  
7 unrelated to the enforcement of discipline. Non-disciplinary segregation shall not include  
8 emergency confinement as defined in section 39A(d) of this chapter or segregation for  
9 documented medical reasons or mental health emergencies.

10 “Non-disciplinary Segregation Board,” a board appointed by the commissioner for a  
11 definite or indefinite term and consisting of three members, one of whom the commissioner shall  
12 designate as chairperson. Once appointed, the board is empowered to recommend a prisoner for  
13 placement in non-disciplinary segregation. The board may be the same as the DSU Board, as  
14 defined by 103 CMR 421.06, or a separate body.

15 “Qualified mental health professional,” treatment providers who are psychiatrists,  
16 psychologists, psychiatric social workers, psychiatric nurses, and others who by virtue of their  
17 education, credentials and experience are permitted by law to evaluate and care for the mental  
18 health needs of patients.

19 “Residential treatment unit,” a general population housing unit within a correctional  
20 institution of the commonwealth that is operated for the purpose of providing treatment and  
21 rehabilitation for prisoners with mental illness.

22 “Secure treatment unit,” a maximum security residential treatment program designed to  
23 provide an alternative to segregation for prisoners diagnosed with serious mental illness in  
24 accordance with clinical standards adopted by the department.

25 “Segregation unit,” a housing unit in which prisoners are segregated from the general  
26 population, whether as non-disciplinary segregation or disciplinary segregation.

27 “Serious mental illness,” constitutes:

28 (1) A current diagnosis or recent significant history of one or more of the following  
29 disorders described in the most recent edition of the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental

30 Disorders: (i) schizophrenia and other psychotic disorders; (ii) major depressive disorders; or (iii)  
31 bipolar disorders, all types;

32 (2) A diagnosis of one or more of the following disorders, as described in the most recent  
33 edition of the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, that results in a significant  
34 functional impairment : (i) a neurodevelopmental disorder, dementia or other cognitive disorder;  
35 (ii) any disorder commonly characterized by breaks with reality, or perceptions of reality; (iii) a  
36 severe personality disorder that is manifested by episodes of psychosis or depression; or

37 (3) A finding that the prisoner is at serious risk of substantially deteriorating mentally or  
38 emotionally while confined in segregation, or already has so deteriorated while confined in  
39 segregation, such that diversion or removal is deemed to be clinically appropriate by a qualified  
40 mental health professional.

41 SECTION 2. Chapter 127 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2010 official edition,  
42 is hereby amended by striking out section 39 and inserting in place thereof the following section:

43 Section 39. Segregation units; segregation; facilities.

44 (a) Subject to the requirements of section 39A and section 39B of chapter 127, at the  
45 request of the superintendent of any correctional institution of the commonwealth, the  
46 commissioner may authorize the confinement in a segregation unit within any correctional  
47 institution of the commonwealth, of any prisoner whose continued retention in the general  
48 institution population poses a substantial threat: (1) to the safety of others; (2) of damaging or  
49 destroying property; or (3) to the operation of a state correctional facility. Segregation should be  
50 for the briefest term and under the least restrictive conditions practicable and consistent with the  
51 rationale for placement.

52 (b) No prisoner may be held in disciplinary segregation for longer than fifteen days,  
53 including time spent in segregation previous to the disciplinary conviction. After fifteen days, a  
54 prisoner may be held in non-disciplinary segregation only pursuant to the provisions of section  
55 39B of this chapter.

56 (c) A prisoner may be held in non-disciplinary segregation only if:

57 (1) Pursuant to section 39B, he or she has been found to have committed, while  
58 incarcerated within the last five years, (i) an act of violence that resulted or was likely to result in  
59 serious injury or death to another, or occurred in connection with an act of non-consensual sex;  
60 (ii) two or more discrete acts which cause serious disruption of prison operations; or (iii) an  
61 escape, attempted escape, or conspiracy to escape from within a security perimeter or custody, or  
62 both; and

63 (2) Pursuant to section 39B, he or she has been determined to pose an immediate and  
64 significant threat to the safety of other prisoners or to the orderly running of the institution.

65 (d) All segregation units shall provide regular meals, fully furnished cells, at least one  
66 hour per day of exercise and recreation, outside if weather permits, rights of visitation and  
67 communication by those properly authorized, and such other privileges as may be established by  
68 the superintendent.

69 Segregation units that house prisoners in non-disciplinary segregation must meet the  
70 following standards:

71 (1) Recreation shall take place in a congregate setting, unless doing so would create a  
72 significant and unreasonable risk to the safety and security of other incarcerated persons, staff, or

73 the facility. If congregate recreation is denied to a prisoner in non-disciplinary segregation for  
74 such reasons, a determination shall be made, written reasons provided to the prisoner, and the  
75 prisoner shall be re-evaluated for recreation in a congregate setting on a weekly basis.

76 (2) Prisoners in non-disciplinary segregation shall have their basic needs met in a  
77 manner comparable to general population, and never have restricted diets nor any order  
78 restricting any basic need imposed as a form of punishment.

79 (3) Prisoners in non-disciplinary segregation shall be afforded out-of-cell time that is  
80 comparable to the out-of-cell time afforded to prisoners in the general population at the same  
81 facility, to the extent consistent with the safety and security of the institution.

82 (4) Prisoners in non-disciplinary segregation shall be permitted to make canteen  
83 purchases and to retain property in their cells, comparable to prisoners in the general population  
84 at the same facility, to the extent consistent with the safety and security of the institution.

85 (5) Prisoners in non-disciplinary segregation shall have equal access to disability  
86 accommodations as persons in general population. Such accommodations shall include, but are  
87 not limited to: handicap accessible cells, wheelchairs, walkers, prosthetic devices, canes,  
88 eyeglasses, hearing aids, orthopedic shoes, mattresses and cushioning, and special clothing.

89 (6) Prisoners in non-disciplinary segregation shall have access to all vocational,  
90 educational and rehabilitative programs comparable to the general population, to the extent  
91 consistent with the safety and security of the institution. They shall be permitted to retain  
92 program materials, complete program assignments, and continue upon return all uncompleted  
93 programs they were in prior to placement in non-disciplinary segregation.

94 (7) Prisoners in non-disciplinary segregation shall not be deprived of light,  
95 ventilation, personal hygiene, daily showers, mail, or religious observance.

96 (8) Prisoners in non-disciplinary segregation shall have access to a radio or television.

97 (9) Prisoners in non-disciplinary segregation shall be eligible for and have  
98 opportunities to receive earned good time credits pursuant to chapter 127, section 129D while in  
99 segregation.

100 SECTION 3. Said chapter 127, as so appearing, is hereby amended by inserting  
101 after section 39, the following section:

102 Section 39A. Exclusions from segregation; mental health evaluations; emergency  
103 segregation for excluded groups.

104 (a) No prisoner may be held in a segregation unit or otherwise in disciplinary or non-  
105 disciplinary segregation if he or she is:

106 (1) Found by a clinician to have a serious mental illness or have a significant mental  
107 impairment that requires exclusion from segregation, under the screening and periodic review  
108 procedures set forth below in section 39A(c);

109 (2) Pregnant;

110 (3) Deaf or Blind;

111 (4) Under 18 years of age; or

112 (5) Suffering from a medical condition or physical disability which is likely to be  
113 worsened by segregation.

114 (b) No prisoner may be held in segregation solely because he or she requires protection  
115 from other prisoners or from staff, or solely because of his or her self-identified transgender  
116 status, except on an emergency basis per subsection (d) below. Prisoners seeking protective  
117 custody, or those determined by the department to need protective custody, shall be provided the  
118 protections specified in the Final Amended Agreement for Judgment in Blaney v. Commissioner,  
119 No. J-74-88 (1980) and codified in the department protective custody units regulations, 103  
120 C.M.R. 422, except to the extent that this Act provides for greater protections.

121 (c) Under the supervision of the department of mental health, all prisoners confined to a  
122 segregation unit or otherwise in disciplinary or non-disciplinary segregation, shall be given  
123 periodic medical and psychiatric examinations in a setting that preserves confidentiality, and  
124 shall receive such medical and psychiatric treatment as may be clinically indicated. A qualified  
125 mental health professional shall make daily rounds in each segregation unit.

126 (1) Prior to placement in disciplinary segregation, non-disciplinary segregation, or  
127 otherwise isolated in a segregation unit, all prisoners shall be evaluated by a qualified mental  
128 health professional.

129 (i) If the clinician(s) determines that the prisoner has a serious mental illness, or that  
130 segregation would cause a risk of substantial harm to the prisoner, the prisoner shall be diverted  
131 from segregation to a mental health step-down unit such as a residential treatment unit, secure  
132 treatment unit, prison mental hospital, or other appropriate housing.

133 (ii) If the prisoner is not initially determined to have a serious mental illness or to be  
134 at risk of substantial harm from segregation, and is placed in segregation, the prisoner shall be  
135 evaluated by a qualified mental health professional at least once per week. Such professional

136 shall arrange for an out-of-cell meeting with any prisoner for whom a confidential meeting is  
137 warranted in the clinician's professional judgment, and shall include: assessment of current  
138 mental status and condition; assessment of current risk of suicide or other self-harming behavior;  
139 and review of all available mental health records at the initial assessment and any new records  
140 thereafter. If a prisoner refuses a face-to-face interview, the professional shall document in the  
141 progress note all attempts made to engage with the prisoner. Any prisoner who is determined  
142 after such an evaluation to have a serious mental illness or to be at risk of substantial harm from  
143 segregation shall be removed from segregation within forty-eight hours of such determination.  
144 Prisoners who are determined to have serious mental illness or be at risk of substantial harm  
145 from segregation, but who are awaiting transfer to a secure treatment unit, shall be offered  
146 additional mental health services as clinically indicated and as required by section 39A(d).

147 (2) The department shall ensure that corrections officers, correctional program officers,  
148 and other staff interacting with prisoners in segregation units receive training on recognizing  
149 signs of mental illness and decompensation and on the proper management of prisoners with  
150 serious mental illness or other significant mental impairment.

151 (3) Placement in segregation solely for self-injurious behavior is prohibited. Disciplinary  
152 reports for behavior directly and wholly related to self-injurious behavior, such as destruction of  
153 state property, are also prohibited.

154 (4) Qualified mental health professional staff shall be notified in writing prior to any  
155 prisoner with serious mental illness in segregation being served with a disciplinary report.

156 (d) A prisoner who has been determined to pose an immediate and significant threat  
157 under the provisions of section 39 and section 39B of chapter 127, but who is excluded from

158 segregation by any provision of section 39A(a) and (b), may be held in segregation on an  
159 emergency basis only if, within twenty-four hours of his or her placement in segregation, the  
160 commissioner or designee certifies in writing: the reason why the prisoner may not be safely held  
161 in the general population; efforts that are being undertaken to find appropriate housing, whether  
162 within the department or through transfer to another jurisdiction; the status of such efforts, and  
163 anticipated time frame for resolution. A copy must be provided to the prisoner.

164 (1) A prisoner who is held in segregation on an emergency basis under the provisions of  
165 section 39A(d) must be afforded at least three hours per day of unstructured out-of-cell  
166 recreation, two hours per week of structured individual or group out-of-cell activities, and, to the  
167 extent possible, visitation, canteen, property and other privileges equivalent to the general prison  
168 population.

169 (2) If such prisoner has been excluded from segregation due to mental illness, he or she  
170 must be given two out-of-cell mental health treatment sessions per week in addition to the  
171 requirements of section 39A(d)(1).

172 SECTION 4. Said chapter 127, as so appearing, is hereby amended by inserting after  
173 section 39 and section 39A, the following section:

174

175 Section 39B. Non-disciplinary segregation procedural requirements; limitations.

176 (a) Prisoners shall be entitled to the procedural requirements set forth below before  
177 he or she can be held in non-disciplinary segregation, unless a the superintendent of the facility  
178 where the prisoner his held or his/her designee certifies in writing that housing the prisoner in the

179 general population prior to complying with these procedural requirements will pose an imminent  
180 threat to the safety and security of the prison where the prisoner is housed. If the superintendent  
181 or his/her designee so certifies, , a hearing before a Non-disciplinary Segregation Board shall be  
182 conducted within five business days of the commencement of segregation. This period may be  
183 extended up to thirty days if the commissioner or appropriate deputy commissioner certifies in  
184 writing that providing a hearing prior to transfer will pose an imminent threat to the safety and  
185 security of the prison where the prisoner is housed and that an extension of the hearing period is  
186 necessary to ensure the integrity and reliability of the hearing.

187 (b) The Non-disciplinary Segregation Board shall be appointed by the commissioner  
188 and shall consist of three individuals including at least one qualified mental health professional.

189 (1) Within 72 hours of the referral of a prisoner to a Non-disciplinary Segregation  
190 Board, the prisoner shall be provided with a written referral summary that shall include the  
191 specific aspects of the prisoner's record or other information that the Board may consider, the  
192 name of any witnesses whom the presenting officer may call to testify, and copies of any  
193 documents that will be introduced. With the written referral summary, the prisoner shall be  
194 provided with request forms for making a written request for representation and for a  
195 continuance.

196 (2) If the prisoner wishes to be represented by an attorney or law student, have certain  
197 witnesses testify, or request a continuance he or she shall complete a written request form within  
198 forty-eight hours of receiving said forms.

199 (3) A prisoner shall be permitted to request that the Board record the hearing and the  
200 Board shall then do so. The recording shall be preserved by the Superintendent or designee and

201 shall be accessible to the prisoner or his representative for reference and, upon request, shall be  
202 provided with a duplicate copy, which shall be provided at no charge if the prisoner is indigent.

203 (4) In the event that a prisoner is illiterate or non-English speaking, or when the  
204 issues presented are complex, the Superintendent or designee shall appoint a staff member to  
205 assist the prisoner in preparing and presenting the prisoner's position at the hearing if the  
206 prisoner is unable to secure legal representation.

207 (5) Prisoners shall have a hearing before a Non-disciplinary Segregation Board to  
208 determine, based on a preponderance of the evidence, that the prisoner meets the requirements of  
209 section 39(c)(1) and (2). Any Non-disciplinary Segregation Board recommendation that the  
210 commissioner place the prisoner in non-disciplinary segregation shall be supported by a  
211 preponderance of the evidence that the prisoner meets said requirements.

212 (6) Within two days of the hearing, the Non-disciplinary Segregation Board shall  
213 serve a written decision on the prisoner which shall contain a description of the specific evidence  
214 relied on and a particularized statement of the reasons for the decision. The statement shall  
215 explain why the placement or retention in non-disciplinary segregation is for administrative and  
216 not disciplinary reasons.

217 (7) The prisoner shall receive a notice stating the prisoner's right to appeal and to  
218 submit written objections within five days of the prisoner's receipt of the Non-disciplinary  
219 Segregation Board's written decision. Any appeal and objections should be addressed to the  
220 Associate Commissioner of Programs, Treatment and Classification, and submitted by the  
221 prisoners or his or her representative to a staff person. The staff person shall deliver them to the  
222 correctional counselor before the close of his tour of duty. The correctional counselor shall

223 promptly submit the name of any prisoner who has filed an appeal to the Associate  
224 Commissioner of Programs, Treatment and Classification.

225 (8) No less than five and no more than ten weekdays after the prisoner's receipt of the  
226 Board's recommendation, the Associate Commissioner shall review the recommendation of the  
227 Board and any appeal or objections filed by the prisoner. Upon review, the Associate  
228 Commissioner shall either make his or her own recommendations regarding the placement or  
229 approve the recommendation. Any written statement of objections filed by the prisoner shall be  
230 attached to the Associate Commissioner's recommendation.

231 (9) Whether or not the prisoner has submitted an appeal, objections or statement, the  
232 commissioner or his designee shall review and act upon the recommendation of the board within  
233 five weekdays after review by the Associate Commissioner of Programs, Treatment and  
234 Classification. The commissioner's action shall be based upon substantial evidence in the record  
235 of the hearing. The Commissioner may sustain and adopt the recommendation in its entirety,  
236 modify it, order a rehearing, or entirely reject a recommendation of placement in non-  
237 disciplinary segregation. The commissioner shall specify and explain any aspects of his decision  
238 and reasoning which are different from those of the Board. If the Commissioner decides that  
239 contrary to the Board's recommendation, placement in non-disciplinary segregation is warranted,  
240 the commissioner shall allow five days from receipt of the commissioner's written decision in  
241 which to file a written statement or objections pursuant to subsection (3) above.

242 (b) Determinate sentencing to non-disciplinary segregation shall not be allowed. The  
243 department shall institute a program that allows every prisoner to earn his or her way out of non-

244 disciplinary segregation through positive behavior. The trajectory for a prisoner to earn his or her  
245 way out of such housing shall be graduated and must be less than ninety days.

246 (1) Within fifteen days of placement in non-disciplinary segregation, including any  
247 time served under section 39B(a), correctional authorities shall develop an individualized plan  
248 for the prisoner. If the prisoner has a mental health history or diagnosis, such plan shall be  
249 developed in consultation with mental health staff who are familiar with the prisoner.

250 (2) The plan shall include an assessment of the prisoner's needs, a strategy for  
251 correctional authorities and, when warranted, mental health staff to assist the prisoner in meeting  
252 those needs, and a statement of the expectations for the prisoner to progress toward fewer  
253 restrictions and back to general population, including specific privileges that will be allowed the  
254 prisoner once he/she meets certain benchmarks in his/her plan;

255 (3) Correctional authorities shall provide a copy of the plan to the prisoner and ensure  
256 the prisoner understands its contents. At intervals not to exceed 30 days, a team consisting of a  
257 correctional administrator and mental health clinician shall conduct and document an evaluation  
258 of each prisoner's progress under the individualized plan. The evaluation shall consider the  
259 prisoner's mental health status and address the extent to which the prisoner's behavior, measured  
260 against the plan, justifies the need to maintain, increase or decrease the level of controls and  
261 restrictions in place at the time of the evaluation and recommend whether the prisoner should be  
262 returned to a lower-level custody or removed from non-disciplinary segregation.

263 (4) If it is determined that the prisoner has substantially complied with the plan, the  
264 prisoner shall be removed from non-disciplinary segregation and returned to a lower custody  
265 level. Otherwise, the team must determine whether the prisoner's progress toward compliance

266 with the individual plan warrants a reduction of restrictions, increased programming, removal  
267 from non-disciplinary segregation and/or return to lower level custody.

268 (5) A decision by the team to retain a prisoner in non-disciplinary segregation shall  
269 be set forth in writing and shall be reviewed by a correctional administrator and approved,  
270 rejected or modified.

271 (c) In no instance shall a prisoner be subjected to non-disciplinary segregation for more  
272 than ninety days unless the department conducts a hearing pursuant to section 39B(a) of this  
273 chapter by which it establishes: by a preponderance of the evidence that the prisoner, within the  
274 previous ninety days, has committed an act which resulted in or was likely to result in serious  
275 injury or death to another; or by clear and convincing evidence that there is a significant risk that  
276 the prisoner will cause physical injury to prison staff or other prisoners if removed from non-  
277 disciplinary segregation. If a decision is made to maintain the prisoner in non-disciplinary  
278 segregation for longer than ninety days, the commissioner shall set forth in writing all other  
279 alternatives that have been considered and why those alternatives have been rejected, and shall  
280 set forth a plan for transitioning the prisoner out of non-disciplinary segregation. Any prisoner  
281 subject to non-disciplinary segregation for longer than ninety days shall be entitled to a hearing  
282 at least every forty-five days thereafter with the same protections set forth herein.

283 (d) Subsections (a) through (c) above shall apply to any prisoner who is categorically  
284 excluded from placement in non-disciplinary segregation in accordance with Section 39A(a) and  
285 (b), but who nevertheless cannot be housed in general population because they pose an  
286 immediate threat of personal injury to others.

287 SECTION 5. Said chapter 127, as so appearing, is hereby amended by inserting after  
288 section 39 and sections 39A and 39B, the following section:

289 Section 39C. Reentry from segregation.

290 Any prisoner who is within six months of his or her mandatory release date or parole  
291 release date shall not be placed in non-disciplinary segregation unless the commissioner, or his  
292 or her designee, certifies in writing, based on a preponderance of the evidence, that the presence  
293 of the prisoner in the general population would pose a serious risk of harm to others and all other  
294 less-restrictive options have been exhausted. The department shall report quarterly to the  
295 segregation oversight committee described in section 39D, or any successor committees, on the  
296 certifications made pursuant to this section 39C for the entire quarterly period and the reasons  
297 therefor.

298 (1) Any prisoner within six months of his or her mandatory release date or parole release  
299 date and who is held in segregation shall have meaningful access to reentry programming  
300 including but not limited to: housing assistance, assistance obtaining state and federal benefits,  
301 employment readiness training, and programming designed to help the person rebuild  
302 interpersonal relationships, such as anger management and parenting courses.

303 (2) The department shall prepare a reentry plan for every person who is held in  
304 segregation at any point within six months of his or her mandatory release date or parole release  
305 date.

306 SECTION 6. Said chapter 127, as so appearing, is hereby amended by inserting after  
307 section 39 and sections 39A, 39B, and 39C the following section:

308 Section 39D. Segregation oversight.

309 A segregation oversight committee shall be convened to gather information regarding the  
310 use of disciplinary segregation and non-disciplinary segregation in Massachusetts correctional  
311 institutions, jails and houses of correction, to determine the impact of such confinement on  
312 prisoners, rates of violence and self-harm within correctional institutions, recidivism, and  
313 incarceration costs.

314 (1) The members of the oversight committee shall be appointed by the judiciary  
315 committee of the Senate.

316 (2) The oversight committee will include a corrections or law enforcement expert, a  
317 former judge, and representation from a disability rights organization, a prisoners' rights  
318 organization, and the Massachusetts psychological association.

319 (3) The members of the oversight committee shall be provided full and unfettered  
320 access to all Massachusetts state prisons and houses of corrections, and shall be allowed to  
321 interview prisoners and staff for the purpose of monitoring compliance with this Act.

322 (4) The oversight committee shall gather information regarding:

323 (i) Criteria for placing a prisoner in non-disciplinary segregation;

324 (ii) Specialized training provided to staff working with prisoners in disciplinary and  
325 non-disciplinary segregation;

326 (iii) The effectiveness of step-down units to transition prisoners from disciplinary and  
327 non-disciplinary segregation to general population units or to the community;

328 (iv) The effect that reducing the use of segregation has on the rate of violence and  
329 self-harm by prisoners and on recidivism rates; and

330 (v) Other relevant information as identified by the oversight committee.

331 (5) The oversight committee shall receive quarterly data and statistics from the  
332 department and each sheriff concerning the following for each correctional institution, jail, and  
333 house of correction, covering the entire quarterly period:

334 (i) The number of prisoners in disciplinary segregation;

335 (ii) The disciplinary sentence length of those prisoners in disciplinary segregation;

336 (iii) The number of prisoners in non-disciplinary segregation;

337 (iv) The length of time those prisoners have been held in non-disciplinary  
338 segregation;

339 (v) The number of prisoners in disciplinary and non-disciplinary segregation,  
340 respectively, with serious mental illness;

341 (vi) The number of prisoners in disciplinary and non-disciplinary segregation,  
342 respectively, with a diagnosed mental illness;

343 (vii) The number of prisoners in disciplinary and non-disciplinary segregation,  
344 respectively, with a significant cognitive impairment or identified learning disability;

345 (viii) The number of prisoners in disciplinary and non-disciplinary segregation,  
346 respectively, who have requested reasonable accommodations for a disability while in  
347 segregation;

348 (ix) The number of prisoners in disciplinary and non-disciplinary segregation,  
349 respectively, who have received reasonable accommodations for a disability while in  
350 segregation;

351 (x) The number of mental health professionals who work with prisoners in  
352 disciplinary and non-disciplinary segregation, respectively;

353 (xi) The number of suicides and, separately, acts of non-lethal self-harm, committed  
354 by prisoners held in disciplinary and non-disciplinary segregation, respectively;

355 (xii) The number of planned uses of force on prisoners held in disciplinary and non-  
356 disciplinary segregation, respectively;

357 (xiii) The number of transfers to outside hospitals and psychiatric hospitals directly  
358 from disciplinary and non-disciplinary segregation, respectively;

359 (xiv) The racial composition of prisoners in disciplinary and non-disciplinary  
360 segregation, respectively;

361 (xv) The number of prisoners in disciplinary and non-disciplinary segregation,  
362 respectively, who did not complete high school;

363 (xvi) The number of prisoners released directly from disciplinary and non-disciplinary  
364 segregation, respectively, to the community;

365 (xvii) The number of prisoners released from disciplinary and non-disciplinary  
366 segregation, respectively, within six months of release to the community;

367 (xviii) The number of prisoners released from disciplinary and non-disciplinary  
368 segregation, respectively, due to mental decompensation;

369 (xix) The number of prisoners in non-disciplinary segregation who are in segregation  
370 because they need protective custody; and

371 (xx) Other relevant data and statistics as identified by the oversight committee.

372 (6) The oversight committee shall publish a report compiling this information and  
373 data annually, with the first report being published within one year of the passage of this Act.  
374 The oversight committee shall make said report publicly available and shall deliver copies of  
375 said report to all relevant legislative committees.

376 (7) The report of the segregation oversight committee shall offer recommendations  
377 geared towards limiting the number of prisoners in disciplinary and non-disciplinary segregation  
378 in Massachusetts and ensuring segregation is used as a tool of last resort in narrow, well-defined  
379 circumstances. The recommendations shall include, but are not limited to:

380 (i) Recommendations as to how the department and each sheriff can adopt a step-  
381 down program so that all prisoners in segregation can be returned to general population within  
382 fifteen days;

383 (ii) Recommendations as to steps the department and each sheriff can take to abolish  
384 the use of segregation;

385 (iii) Recommendations as to how the department and each sheriff can ensure that  
386 prisoners experience continuity in programming during segregation;

387 (iv) Recommendations as to how the department and each sheriff can ensure that no  
388 prisoner from an excluded group, as defined in section 39A of chapter 127, is placed in  
389 segregation;

390 (v) Recommendations as to how the department and each sheriff can deliver  
391 meaningful mental health treatment to prisoners in segregation;

392 (vi) Recommendations as to how the department and each sheriff can limit the  
393 infractions resulting in segregation placement; and

394 (vii) Recommendations as to how the department and each sheriff can ensure that no  
395 prisoner is released directly from segregation to the community.

396 SECTION 7. Section 40 of said chapter 127, as so appearing, is hereby amended by:

397 Inserting in line 4 after the words “to an isolation unit” the following words: a  
398 segregation unit, disciplinary unit, or any cell where the prisoner is confined to his cell for  
399 approximately twenty-three hours per day for the purpose of disciplinary segregation.

400 Striking out the second paragraph and inserting in place the following paragraph: All  
401 isolation units, segregation units, disciplinary units, or any cell where the prisoner is confined to  
402 this cell for the purpose of disciplinary segregation, must provide light, ventilation, adequate  
403 sanitation facilities, adequate clothing, adequate furnishings, regular meals, and the opportunity  
404 for recreation at least one hour per day. Under the supervision of the department of mental  
405 health, all prisoners confined to isolation and disciplinary units shall be given periodic mental  
406 and psychiatric examinations, and shall receive such medical and psychiatric treatment as may be  
407 clinically indicated.

408 SECTION 8. Said chapter 127, as so appearing, is hereby amended by striking out  
409 section 41 and inserting in place thereof the following section:

410 (a) Subject to the requirements of section 39A of chapter 127, the superintendent or  
411 keeper of a jail or house of correction may set aside in such jail or house of correction one or  
412 more cells to be used as isolation units or segregation units, and for the enforcement of discipline  
413 may confine any prisoner thereto; but no prisoner shall be confined to such isolation unit for  
414 more than three days without informing the sheriff or the county commissioners thereof and of  
415 the reasons therefor; and in no case for more than ten days for any one offence.

416 All such isolation units and segregation units used for disciplinary segregation shall  
417 comply with the requirements of section 39(d) of chapter 127. Under the supervision of the  
418 department of mental health, all prisoners confined in disciplinary segregation shall be given  
419 periodic mental and psychiatric examinations, and shall receive such medical and psychiatric  
420 treatment as may be clinically indicated.

421 (b) Subject to the requirements of section 39A of this chapter, the superintendent of a jail  
422 or house of correction may hold a prisoner in non-disciplinary segregation only if, after a hearing  
423 and the issuance of a written decision:

424 (1) The prisoner has been found to have committed, while incarcerated with in the last  
425 five years, (i) an act of violence that resulted or was likely to result in serious injury or death to  
426 another, or occurred in connection with an act of non-consensual sex, or (ii) two or more discrete  
427 acts which cause serious disruption of prison operations; or (iii) an escape, attempted escape, or  
428 conspiracy to escape from within a security perimeter or custody, or both; and

429           (2) He or she has been determined to pose an immediate and significant threat to the  
430 safety of other prisoners or to the orderly running of the institution.

431           All such isolation units and segregation units used for non-disciplinary segregation shall  
432 comply with the requirements of section 39(d) of chapter 127. Under the supervision of the  
433 department of mental health, all prisoners confined in non-disciplinary segregation shall be given  
434 periodic mental and psychiatric examinations, and shall receive such medical and psychiatric  
435 treatment as may be clinically indicated.