

HOUSE No. 1810

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Byron Rushing

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 passage of the accompanying bill:

An Act relative to the treatment of prisoners..

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:
<i>Byron Rushing</i>	<i>9th Suffolk</i>
<i>Kay Khan</i>	<i>11th Middlesex</i>
<i>Ellen Story</i>	<i>3rd Hampshire</i>
<i>Mary S. Keefe</i>	<i>15th Worcester</i>
<i>Elizabeth A. Malia</i>	<i>11th Suffolk</i>
<i>Gloria L. Fox</i>	<i>7th Suffolk</i>
<i>Denise Andrews</i>	<i>2nd Franklin</i>
<i>Denise Provost</i>	<i>27th Middlesex</i>
<i>Paul R. Heroux</i>	<i>2nd Bristol</i>

HOUSE No. 1810

By Mr. Rushing of Boston, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 1810) of Byron Rushing and others relative to the treatment of emotionally disturbed prisoners. Mental Health and Substance Abuse.

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION

SEE

□ HOUSE
□ , NO. 554 OF 2011-2012.]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand Thirteen

An Act relative to the treatment of prisoners..

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 127 of the General Laws is hereby amended by adding after
2 Section 32 the following new section:—

3 Section 32A. TREATMENT OF EMOTIONALLY DISTURBED PRISONERS

4 (A) Prohibitions Concerning Intervention for Suicide Attempts and Self-Mutilation

5 (1) A prisoner who either commits self-mutilation or attempts suicide shall not be
6 disciplined

7 or punished for such behavior, nor shall the prisoner be segregated or isolated except to
8 the

9 extent specifically authorized by medical staff for treatment. The use of “closed solid
10 door isolation,” so-called, to punish or manage suicidal or self-mutilating prisoners is specifically
11 prohibited.

12 (B) Requirements Concerning Intervention for Suicide Attempts and Self-Mutilation

13 (1) The commissioner shall require that the following steps be taken to insure appropriate
14 responses to suicide attempts. Institutional staff will be trained in techniques for responding to
15 suicide attempts and self-mutilation that ensure the safe and quick extrication of prisoners who
16 hang themselves and the provision of necessary first aid. A prisoner who commits selfmutilation
17 or attempts suicide shall immediately receive appropriate medical attention and shall be
18 interviewed by a licensed mental health professional within twelve hours of the incident, which
19 interview shall be logged in the inmate's medical record and in the block log where the prisoner
20 is located at the time of the interview.