

HOUSE No. 209

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Nika C. Elugardo

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 discharge plans across the Commonwealth (Re-Entry).

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	DATE ADDED:
<i>Nika C. Elugardo</i>	<i>15th Suffolk</i>	<i>2/18/2021</i>
<i>Lindsay N. Sabadosa</i>	<i>1st Hampshire</i>	<i>2/24/2021</i>
<i>Michelle M. DuBois</i>	<i>10th Plymouth</i>	<i>2/26/2021</i>

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By Ms. Elugardo of Boston, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 209) of Nika C. Elugardo, Lindsay N. Sabadosa and Michelle M. DuBois for legislation to develop a memorandum of understanding setting forth an action plan to avoid discharges of individuals released from incarceration or residential treatment into homelessness or emergency shelters. Children, Families and Persons with Disabilities.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

An Act relative to discharge plans across the Commonwealth (Re-Entry).

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. The Executive Office of Health and Human Services, the Executive Office
2 of Housing and Economic Development, the Executive Office of Public Safety and Security, the
3 Department of Housing and Community Development, the Department of Youth Services, the
4 Department of Transitional Assistance, the Department of Developmental Services, the
5 Department of Mental Health, the Department of Children and Families, the Department of
6 Public Health, the Department of Correction, and any other office or agency recommended by
7 the Governor (collectively, “parties”) shall develop a memorandum of understanding setting
8 forth an action plan to avoid discharges of individuals released from incarceration or residential
9 treatment into homelessness or emergency shelter. Said memorandum of understanding and plan
10 may include but need not be limited to enhanced comprehensive institutional discharge planning,
11 increased availability of community-based supportive services , resident service coordination,

12 housing support teams and other models to link individuals with any services necessary to
13 maintain housing stability.

14 Further, said memorandum of understanding shall identify and resolve barriers to
15 comprehensive institutional discharge planning and community-based services in order to
16 prevent discharges of individuals into homelessness or emergency shelters. Parties to the
17 memorandum of understanding shall establish models of comprehensive institutional discharge
18 housing plan and identify other resources as necessary or helpful in furthering the goals of the
19 memorandum of understanding or subsequent agreement. The parties to this memorandum of
20 understanding shall amend rules and regulations wherever necessary or appropriate to carry out
21 the objectives of the executed memorandum of understanding or subsequent agreement into
22 effect. The memorandum of understanding, along with any legislative or budgetary action
23 recommended by the parties, shall be filed with the Governor, the Lieutenant Governor, the Joint
24 Committee on Housing, the Joint Committee on Elder Affairs, the Joint Committee on Children,
25 Families and Persons with Disabilities, the Joint Committee on the Judiciary, the Senate
26 Committee on Ways and Means and the House Committee on Ways and Means no later than
27 January 1, 2022.

28 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon its passage.