

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 2469**

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**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

PRESENTED BY:

***Carlos González***

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*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 through evidence-based programs.**

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	DATE ADDED:
<i>Carlos González</i>	<i>10th Hampden</i>	<i>2/19/2021</i>
<i>Marcos A. Devers</i>	<i>16th Essex</i>	<i>2/23/2021</i>
<i>James J. O'Day</i>	<i>14th Worcester</i>	<i>2/26/2021</i>
<i>David Allen Robertson</i>	<i>19th Middlesex</i>	<i>2/26/2021</i>
<i>Nika C. Elugardo</i>	<i>15th Suffolk</i>	<i>2/26/2021</i>
<i>Vanna Howard</i>	<i>17th Middlesex</i>	<i>2/26/2021</i>
<i>Carmine Lawrence Gentile</i>	<i>13th Middlesex</i>	<i>2/26/2021</i>
<i>Bud L. Williams</i>	<i>11th Hampden</i>	<i>3/15/2021</i>

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 2469**

By Mr. González of Springfield, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 2469) of Carlos González and others for legislation to reduce recidivism through evidence-based programs. Public Safety and Homeland Security.

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

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

An Act to reduce recidivism through evidence-based programs.

*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 27 of the General Laws is hereby amended by adding the following  
2 section:-

3 Section 8. There shall be established in the department of correction an office of  
4 recidivism reduction research. The office shall evaluate the effects that prison programs,  
5 including, but not limited to, work, education and recovery programs, have on reducing  
6 recidivism in the commonwealth and the cost such programs save through recidivism reduction.  
7 The office shall make recommendations to the commissioner of the department of correction as  
8 to how such programs may be improved and expanded across the correctional system, in  
9 particular how to expand program engagement strategy and cognitive behavioral therapy  
10 programs to correctional facilities across the commonwealth.

11 SECTION 2. Chapter 127 of the General Laws is hereby amended by adding the  
12 following section:-

13           Section 170. Every medium and maximum security correctional facility in the  
14   commonwealth shall establish a program engagement strategy, or PES, which shall utilize  
15   incentives and consequences in an effort to increase prisoner participation in prison programs  
16   and decrease program refusal or termination. The programs eligible for inclusion in PES may  
17   include, but shall not be limited to, any educational, work-related, substance abuse, recovery,  
18   treatment, self-improvement, violence or recidivism reduction, reentry, reintegration, and  
19   behavioral management programs; provided, that cognitive behavioral therapy modeled  
20   programs shall be eligible for PES inclusion.

21           Incentives to increase program participation may include, but shall not be limited to,  
22   good time sentence reductions and reduced prisoner classification rating. Consequences for  
23   refusing to participate in or termination from a program may include, but not be limited to, loss  
24   of preferred housing, work assignment, seniority or program placement. The department of  
25   correction may promulgate rules and regulations as necessary to implement this section.

26           SECTION 3. Every medium and maximum security correctional facility shall offer at  
27   least 1 program engagement strategy eligible cognitive behavioral therapy modeled program  
28   pursuant to section 170 of chapter 127 of the General Laws by January 1, 2024.