

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Liz Miranda

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 provide criminal justice reform protections to all prisoners in segregated confinement.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	DATE ADDED:
Liz Miranda	5th Suffolk	2/18/2021
Lindsay N. Sabadosa	1st Hampshire	2/19/2021
Jack Patrick Lewis	7th Middlesex	2/22/2021
Steven C. Owens	29th Middlesex	2/24/2021
Tami L. Gouveia	14th Middlesex	2/25/2021
Kay Khan	11th Middlesex	2/25/2021
Sean Garballey	23rd Middlesex	2/26/2021
David Henry Argosky LeBoeuf	17th Worcester	2/26/2021
David M. Rogers	24th Middlesex	2/26/2021
Erika Uyterhoeven	27th Middlesex	2/26/2021
Maria Duaime Robinson	6th Middlesex	2/26/2021
Michelle L. Ciccolo	15th Middlesex	2/26/2021
Thomas M. Stanley	9th Middlesex	2/26/2021
Nika C. Elugardo	15th Suffolk	2/26/2021
Joanne M. Comerford	Hampshire, Franklin and Worcester	3/3/2021
Danillo A. Sena	37th Middlesex	3/8/2021
Carmine Lawrence Gentile	13th Middlesex	3/10/2021
Elizabeth A. Malia	11th Suffolk	3/15/2021

Josh S. Cutler	6th Plymouth	3/16/2021
Ruth B. Balser	12th Middlesex	3/18/2021
Tommy Vitolo	15th Norfolk	3/24/2021
Marjorie C. Decker	25th Middlesex	3/26/2021
Edward F. Coppinger	10th Suffolk	4/1/2021
Mary S. Keefe	15th Worcester	4/1/2021
Mindy Domb	3rd Hampshire	4/2/2021
Jason M. Lewis	Fifth Middlesex	4/12/2021
Adam J. Scanlon	14th Bristol	4/13/2021

By Ms. Miranda of Boston, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 2504) of Liz Miranda and others relative to prisoners in segregated confinement. Public Safety and Homeland Security.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

An Act to provide criminal justice reform protections to all prisoners in segregated confinement.

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 2018 2 Official Edition, is hereby amended by inserting after the definition of "Victim" the following 6 3 definitions:-4 "Segregated confinement", is a status where a prisoner is separated from the general 5 population. The department shall only utilize the following types of segregated confinement: (1) 6 restrictive housing; (2) disciplinary restrictive housing; (3) secure adjustment units; (4) secure 7 treatment units; (5) mental health watch; (6) accountability program unit; and (7) security watch. 8 "Secure adjustment unit", a housing placement designed to provide access to cognitive 9 behavioral treatment, education, programs, structured recreation, leisure time activities and 10 mental health services for prisoners diverted from or released from restrictive housing. 11 "Health services unit", a general population housing placement designed to deliver 12 healthcare services to prisoners.

13 "Mental health watch", is a status intended to protect a prisoner from serious self-harm. 14 "Security watch", any 24-hour observation initiated through security threats or suspicion 15 of ingesting substances including drugs. 16 "General population", any housing placement where a prisoner is not held in segregated 17 confinement. In no event shall any general population unit have conditions that are similar to or 18 more restrictive than segregated confinement. These conditions shall include a prisoner's access 19 to: out of cell time; the vard, gym and other recreational spaces; the law library; religious 20 services; canteen; personal property; visitation, including both the total available visitation time 21 and the opportunity for contact visits; telephones and video visits; opportunities to earn a wage 22 and opportunities to earn good time. All such access shall be maximized as much as possible. SECTION 2. Said section 1 of said chapter 127, as so appearing, is hereby amended by 23 24 striking out, in lines 27 and 30, the words "restrictive housing" and inserting in place thereof the 25 following words:- segregated confinement 26 SECTION 3. Said section 1 of said chapter 127, as so appearing, is hereby amended by 27 striking out, in lines 31 and 32, the words "clause (iv) or (v) of" 28 SECTION 4. Said section 1 of said chapter 127, as so appearing, is hereby amended by 29 striking out the definition of "secure treatment unit" and inserting in place thereof the following 30 definition:-"Secure treatment unit", a housing placement of any security level that is 31 designed to provide an alternative to restrictive housing for prisoners diagnosed with serious 32 mental illness and which provides clinically appropriate mental health treatment, programming, 33 out of cell time, educational opportunities, programming and other services in accordance with

clinical standards adopted by the department of correction in consultation with the department ofmental health.

36	SECTION 5. Section 39 of said chapter 127, as so appearing, is hereby amended by
37	striking out, in line 10, the words "restrictive housing units" and inserting in place thereof the
38	following words:- segregated confinement units other than mental health watch
39	SECTION 6. Said section 39 of said chapter 127, as so appearing, is hereby amended by
40	inserting after the word "authorized" in line 14 the following words: commensurate with the
41	rights of general population prisoners
42	SECTION 7. Said section 39 of said chapter 127, as so appearing, is hereby amended by
43	striking numeral (v), in lines 19 and 20, and replacing it with the following words "(v) access to
44	a tablet and a radio or television, in accordance with the prisoner's preference, if the confinement
45	exceeds 48 hours."
46	SECTION 8. Said section 39 of said chapter 127, is hereby amended by striking numeral
47	(x) in subsection (b) and inserting the following two numerals in its place: (x) access to personal
48	property unless contraindicated by qualified clinical mental health providers; (xi) other rights and
49	privileges as may be established or recognized by the commissioner.
50	SECTION 9. Said section 39 of said chapter 127, as so appearing, is hereby amended by
51	inserting at the end of subsection (d) the following sentences: Mental health treatment provided
52	in segregated confinement shall be confidential and be consistent with generally accepted
53	professional standards for treatment in the community. Medication alone, without therapy, does
54	not constitute sufficient treatment; provided, however, that a prisoner may decline therapy

in segregated confinement shall have an individual treatment plan designed by a qualified mental
health professional in consultation with the prisoner, who may accept or decline the services
offered in the said plan. The individual treatment plan shall include a minimum of 50 minutes of
therapy per week.

60 SECTION 10. Said section 39 of said chapter 127, as so appearing, is hereby amended by 61 inserting after subsection (e) the following subsection:- (f) Prisoners in segregated confinement 62 shall be offered no less than four hours out of cell indoors or outdoors, in accordance with the 63 prisoner's preference, at least once a day unless contraindicated by qualified clinical mental 64 health providers.

65 SECTION 11. Subsection (b) of said section 39 of said chapter 127, as so appearing, is 66 hereby amended by inserting after the first sentence the following two sentences:- If canteen 67 privileges or disability accommodations are deemed inconsistent with the security of the unit, 68 such determination must be reviewed by the placement review examiners at each placement 69 review, at which time the placement review examiners must override the determination if there is 70 not substantial evidence to support it. The placement review examiners shall provide written 71 explanation of their determination and all evidence relied upon, and all such determinations are 72 final agency decisions.

SECTION 12. Said section 39 of said chapter 127, as so appearing, is hereby amended by
 striking out, in lines 34 and 41, the words "restrictive housing" and inserting in place
 thereof the following words:- segregated confinement

SECTION 13. Said section 39 of said chapter 127, as so appearing, is hereby amended by
striking out, in lines 36, 37, 38, and 39, the words "or restrictive housing is otherwise clinically

78 contraindicated based on clinical standards adopted by the department of correction and the 79 qualified mental health professional's clinical judgment" and inserting in place thereof the 80 following words:- "A prisoner with a serious mental illness or who is otherwise clinically 81 contraindicated for restrictive housing, disciplinary restrictive housing or secure adjustment 82 units, based on clinical standards adopted by the department of correction and the qualified 83 mental health professional's clinical judgment, shall only be placed in secure treatment units, 84 mental health watch or general population units. Secure treatment units may be any level of 85 security deemed appropriate for the population. They shall meet minimum standards for mental 86 health treatment, programming and education, as established by the department's director of 87 behavioral health with the approval of the commissioner of mental health. They shall have 88 minimum out-of-cell time of no less than 5 hours daily. A clinical staff person shall be the 89 director of all secure treatment units. A correctional staff person shall be responsible for security 90 on secure treatment units. All clinical treatment and supervision of prisoners placed in secure 91 treatment units shall be provided by qualified clinical mental health providers. The mental health 92 providers will make the determination regarding readiness for the prisoner to be moved to a less 93 restrictive unit.

94 SECTION 14. Said section 39 of said chapter 127, as so appearing, is hereby amended by
 95 striking out, in line 47, the words "restrictive housing" and inserting in place thereof the
 96 following words:- segregated confinement other than a secure treatment unit or mental health
 97 watch

98 SECTION 15. Section 39A of said chapter 127, as so appearing, is hereby amended by
 99 striking out, in line 1, the words "restrictive housing" and inserting in place thereof the

following words:- segregated confinement other than a secure treatment unit or mental healthwatch

SECTION 16. Said section 39A of said chapter 127, as so appearing, is hereby amended
 by inserting after the words "restrictive housing" in line 4 the following words:-, "disciplinary
 restrictive housing or a secure adjustment unit"

- SECTION 17. Said section 39A of said chapter 127, as so appearing, is hereby amended
 by striking out, in lines 12, 17, 20, 22, 34, 35, 38 and 39, the words "restrictive housing"
 and inserting in place thereof the following words:- segregated confinement
- SECTION 18. Said section 39A of said chapter 127, as so appearing, is hereby amended
 by striking out subsection (d) and inserting in place thereof the following subsection: "(d) a prisoner who is pregnant or who is in the first 8 weeks of the postpartum recovery period
- 111 after giving birth shall not be placed in segregated confinement."
- SECTION 19. Said section 39A of said chapter 127, as so appearing, is hereby amended
 by striking out subsection (e) and inserting in place thereof the following subsection:- (e)
 Persons with permanent physical or developmental disabilities shall not be placed in segregated
 confinement.
- SECTION 20. Said section 39A of said chapter 127, as so appearing, is hereby amended
 by inserting after subsection (f) the following subsection:- (g) A prisoner 21 years of age or
 younger or 55 years of age or older shall not be placed in segregated confinement.

119	SECTION 21. Section 39B of said chapter 127, as so appearing, is hereby amended by
120	striking out, in lines 1, 4, 17, 34 and 35, the words "restrictive housing" and inserting in
121	place thereof the following words:- segregated confinement
122	SECTION 22. Said section 39B of said chapter 127, as so appearing, is hereby amended
123	by inserting after the word "39A", in line 4, the following words:- or subsection (a) of section
124	39I,
125	SECTION 23. Said section 39B of said chapter 127 is hereby amended by striking from
126	subsection (a) numerals (iv) and (v) and inserting in place thereof:- (iv) is being held for
127	any other reason, every 30 days.
128	SECTION 24. Said section 39B of said chapter 127, as so appearing, is hereby amended
129	by inserting after the words "restrictive housing" in lines 11 and 12 the following words:-
130	disciplinary restrictive housing, a secure adjustment unit or a secure treatment unit following an
131	allegation or finding of a disciplinary breach
132	SECTION 25. Said section 39B of said chapter 127, as so appearing, is hereby amended
133	by striking out, in line 20, the word "or" and inserting in place thereof the following word:- and
134	SECTION 26. Said section 39B of said chapter 127, as so appearing, is hereby amended
135	by inserting after the word "writing" in line 20 the following words:- and be represented by an
136	advocate of the prisoner's choosing including, but not limited to, a legislator, law student,
137	lawyer, paralegal or other legal representative
138	SECTION 27. Said section 39B of said chapter 127, as so appearing, is hereby amended
139	by striking out, in lines 22 and 23, the words "the evidence relied on and the reasons for the

140 placement decision" and inserting in place thereof the following words:- "(1) any negative 141 effects of segregated confinement on the prisoner and the extent to which such effects may be 142 impacting the prisoner's behavior and perceived level of risk, (2) whether a reasonable 143 probability of safety for the prisoner and third parties could be achieved if the prisoner 144 were confined to general population or a less restrictive form of segregated confinement than the 145 prisoner has been assigned to, (3) the factual basis or bases for the placement decision, (4) a 146 written description of any statements made by the prisoner during the hearing and (5) attaching 147 all supporting records and all records submitted by the prisoner"

SECTION 28. Said section 39B of said chapter 127, as so appearing, is hereby amended
by striking out subsection (d).

150 SECTION 29. Said section 39B of said chapter 127, as so appearing, is hereby amended 151 by inserting after subsection (e) the following two subsections:- (f) There shall be a presumption 152 in favor of release to the general population at every placement review, and a prisoner may only 153 be retained in segregated confinement if there is clear and convincing evidence that the prisoner 154 poses an unacceptable risk in the general population as provided in subsection (a) of section 39, 155 documented in writing. If a prisoner is being held in segregated confinement awaiting a 156 disciplinary hearing or on any other awaiting action or investigation status, the prisoner shall be 157 reviewed every 3 days by clinical staff and they shall be returned to the general population once 158 clinical staff determine the prisoner no longer poses a threat of harm to themselves or others, in 159 no event greater than 15 days. Any time on any awaiting action status shall be credited towards 160 any subsequent disciplinary sanction, and no disciplinary sanction shall exceed 15 days in 161 segregated confinement. (g) If a placement review causes a prisoner to be held in segregated 162 confinement for more than 90 days over a one-year period, the placement review shall constitute

163	a final agency decision. The prisoner may file a complaint challenging the prisoner's placement
164	in segregated confinement in the superior court for the county in which the inmate is incarcerated
165	or otherwise being held or in Suffolk county in accordance with section 14 of chapter 30A. The
166	superior court shall determine if there is substantial evidence to support the determination of the
167	placement review. If there is substantial evidence to support the determination of the placement
168	review then the court shall: (1) uphold the placement in segregated confinement or (2) make
169	other orders the court deems consistent with justice. If there is not substantial evidence to support
170	the determination of the placement review then the court shall:
171	(1) order that the prisoner shall be housed in the general population;
172	(2) order that the prisoner shall be housed in a less restrictive form of segregated
173	confinement than the prisoner is currently confined to; (3) order that the prisoner shall be housed
174	in the type of segregated confinement that the department assigned the prisoner to; or
175	(4) make other orders the court deems consistent with justice. The availability of review
176	under this section shall not be construed to limit any judicial remedies otherwise available.
177	SECTION 30. Section 39C of said chapter 127, as so appearing, is hereby amended by
178	striking out, in line 4, the words "restrictive housing" and inserting in place thereof the
179	following words:- segregated confinement
180	SECTION 31. Section 39D of said chapter 127, as so appearing, is hereby amended by
181	striking out, in lines 2 and 3, the words "restrictive housing" and inserting in place
182	thereof the following words:- segregated confinement

183 SECTION 32. Said section 39D of said chapter 127, as so appearing, is hereby amended 184 by striking out subsection (b) and inserting in place thereof the following subsection:- (b) 185 The commissioner shall publish a report quarterly and provide directly to the segregated 186 confinement oversight committee and to the special commission to study the health and safety of 187 lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer and intersex prisoners in correctional institutions, jails 188 and houses of correction, as to each segregated confinement unit within each state correctional 189 facility, and every 6 months as to each segregated confinement unit within each county 190 correctional facility, in aggregated and disaggregated formats:

(i) the number of prisoners as to whom a finding of serious mental illness has beendelineated by diagnosis and the number of such prisoners held for more 190 than 15 days;

(ii) the number of prisoners who have committed suicide or committed non-lethal acts ofself-harm;

195 (iii) the number of prisoners according to the reason for their segregated confinement;

196 (iv) a listing of prisoners with names redacted, including an anonymized identification 197 number that shall be consistent across reports, age, race, gender and ethnicity and, if known, the 198 voluntary self-identified sexual orientation, as defined in section 3 of chapter 151B, and gender 199 identity, as defined in section 7 of chapter 4, of each prisoner subjected to segregated 200 confinement, whether the prisoner was pregnant during time spent in restrictive housing, whether 201 the prisoner has an open mental health case, the date of the prisoner's commitment to segregated 202 confinement, the length of the prisoner's disciplinary term, if applicable and a summary of the 203 reason for the prisoner's commitment;

(v) the number of placement reviews conducted for each type of segregated confinement
 and the number of prisoners released from each type of segregated confinement as a result of
 such placement reviews;

(vi) the length of original assignment to and total time served in segregated confinement
 for disciplinary purposes for each prisoner released from said confinement as a result of a
 placement review;

(vii) the count of prisoners released to the community directly or within 30 days of
release from segregated confinement;

(viii) the known disabilities of every prisoner who was placed in segregated confinementduring the previous 3 months;

(ix) the number of mental health professionals who work directly with prisoners insegregated confinement;

216 (x) the number of transfers to outside hospitals directly from segregated confinement;

217 (xi) such additional information as the commissioner may determine;

218 (xii) the number of prisoners subjected to each type of segregated confinement;

219 (xiii) the number of prisoners held in segregated confinement for more than 15 days;

(xiv) the number of prisoners 21 years of age or younger subjected to each type of
 segregated confinement;

222 (xv) the number of pregnant prisoners subjected to each type of segregated confinement;

(xvi) the racial and ethnic composition of prisoners subjected to each type of segregatedconfinement;

(xvii) the sexual orientation and gender identity composition of prisoners subjected to
each type of segregated confinement who have voluntarily disclosed during Prison Rape
Elimination Act screenings or voluntarily disclose and self-identify at any other time during their
incarceration their sexual orientation, as defined in section 3 of chapter 151B or gender identity,
as defined in section 7 of chapter 4;

(xviii) the number of prisoners subjected to multiple stays in each type of segregatedconfinement in a given reporting period;

(xix) the rate of recidivism for individuals that were subject to segregated confinement.
 The information shall be published in a commonly available electronic, machine readable format.

234 SECTION 33. Said section 39D of said chapter 127, as so appearing, is hereby amended 235 by inserting the following subsection:- (d) The commissioner with consultation from the 236 administrators of county correctional facilities, the department of public health, the department 237 of youth services, the Fenway Institute and input from other stakeholders shall develop policies 238 and procedures for prisoners to voluntarily disclose their sexual orientation or gender identity 239 during initial intake to state and county correctional facilities and upon placement in segregated 240 confinement. The collection of sexual orientation or gender identity information voluntarily 241 provided by prisoners placed in or currently held in segregated confinement must be collected by 242 members of the special commission on the health and safety of lesbian, gay, bisexual, 243 transgender, queer and intersex prisoners.

244	SECTION 34. Section 39E of said chapter 127, as so appearing, is hereby amended by
245	striking out, in line 2, the words "restrictive housing" and inserting in place thereof the following
246	words:- segregated confinement
247	SECTION 35. Section 39F of said chapter 127, as so appearing, is hereby amended by
248	striking out, in lines 3 and 8, the words "restrictive housing" and inserting in place
249	thereof the following words:- segregated confinement other than mental health watch
250	SECTION 36. Said section 39F of said chapter 127, as so appearing, is hereby amended
251	by striking out, in line 4, the words "restrictive housing" and inserting in place thereof the
252	following words:- segregated confinement
253	SECTION 37. Section 39G of said chapter 127, as so appearing, is hereby amended by
254	striking out, in lines 1, 26, 27, 36, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45 and 47, the words "restrictive
255	housing" and inserting in place thereof the following words:- segregated confinement
256	SECTION 38. Said section 39G of said chapter 127, as so appearing, is hereby amended
257	by striking out, in line 6, the word "9" and inserting in place thereof the following word:- 10
258	SECTION 39. Said section 39G of said chapter 127, as so appearing, is hereby amended
259	by inserting after the word "designee", in line 18, the following words:-, 1 of whom shall be an
260	individual who has personally experienced segregated confinement. A member who has
261	personally experienced segregated confinement or otherwise been incarcerated in a penal facility
262	shall be considered a full member of the committee and shall have the same rights, benefits, and
263	responsibilities as any other member including the right to visit facilities and to access to records.

SECTION 40. Said section 39G of said chapter 127, as so appearing, is hereby amended by striking out, in line 29, the word "The" and inserting in place thereof the following words:- All members of the

267 SECTION 41. Said section 39G of said chapter 127, as so appearing, is hereby amended 268 by inserting after the word "institutions" in lines 29 and 30, the following words:- , including for 269 inspections without prior notice,

270 SECTION 42. Subsection (c) of said section 39G of said chapter 127, as so appearing, is 271 hereby amended by inserting after the first sentence the following four sentences:- No 272 restrictions shall be placed on the ability of members of the committee to speak with the public 273 or the press about public aspects of the committee's work. The committee may ask the 274 department and sheriff's departments to develop new data and information relating to the use of 275 segregated confinement. The committee shall be entitled to review nonpublic information and 276 records, including, but not limited to, personnel records and, with the permission of the prisoner, 277 prisoner records. The committee shall be entitled to review and obtain copies of all public 278 information and records, including all public information that is segregable from non-public 279 information and records.

SECTION 43. Said chapter 127, as so appearing, is hereby amended by inserting after section 39H the following section:- Section 39I. (a) A prisoner may be placed on mental health watch only if it is determined by a qualified mental health professional's clinical judgment that the prisoner requires observation to protect the prisoner from an imminent risk of serious selfharm. A qualified mental health professional shall assess the need for continued mental health watch after six hours, after 12 hours and then at least once every 12 hours thereafter. Each suchassessment shall include an in person interview with the prisoner.

(b) A prisoner who has been placed on mental health watch for more than 72 hours and
continues to require observation due to a serious a risk of imminent serious self-harm, as
determined by a qualified mental health professional's clinical judgment, shall be transferred to a
suitable facility or unit licensed or operated by the department of mental health.

(c) All prisoners who have been placed on mental health watch shall be fully clothed.
Clothing shall be substantially similar to that which is worn in general population, and any
limitations to clothing shall be determined only by a qualified clinical mental health professional.

(d) All menstruating prisoners shall be provided with appropriate personal hygienesupplies throughout the duration of their menstrual cycle.

(e) All prisoners who have been placed on mental health watch shall be provided a
minimum of 2 blankets of the same or of substantially similar quality to blankets provided in
general population.

(f) All prisoners who have been placed on mental health watch shall be offered time out
of cell indoors or outdoors, in accordance with the prisoner's preference, at least once daily
unless contraindicated by qualified clinical mental health providers.

302 SECTION 44. Chapter 127 of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after
 303 section 48B the following section:-

304 Section 48C: The commissioner and administrators of state prisons and county facilities
 305 shall maximize out of cell time and opportunities for prisoner participation in education, training,

employment and all other programming including programming related to rehabilitation, health
care and substance use. All prisoners shall have the opportunity to access at least 1 hour of
structured programming daily at least 5 days per week. With the exception of restrictive housing
and security or operational emergencies, no prisoner shall be locked into a cell for more than 16
hours daily.

311 SECTION 45: Section 48 of Chapter 127 is hereby amended by adding after the first 312 sentence of the second paragraph the following sentence:- Every state and county correctional 313 facility must have at least one general high school equivalency class available and shall ensure 314 access to higher education.