

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 00554**

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>Patricia D. Jehlen</i>	<i>Second Middlesex</i>
<i>Linda Dorcena Forry</i>	<i>12th Suffolk</i>
<i>Carl M. Sciortino, Jr.</i>	<i>34th Middlesex</i>
<i>Frank I. Smizik</i>	<i>15th Norfolk</i>
<i>Joyce A. Spiliotis</i>	<i>12th Essex</i>
<i>Elizabeth A. Malia</i>	<i>11th Suffolk</i>
<i>Ruth B. Balseer</i>	<i>12th Middlesex</i>
<i>Alice K. Wolf</i>	<i>25th Middlesex</i>
<i>William N. Brownsberger</i>	<i>24th Middlesex</i>
<i>Gloria L. Fox</i>	<i>7th Suffolk</i>
<i>Kay Khan</i>	<i>11th Middlesex</i>
<i>Ellen Story</i>	<i>3rd Hampshire</i>
<i>Benjamin Swan</i>	<i>11th Hampden</i>

# HOUSE . . . . . No. 00554

By Mr. Byron Rushing of Boston, petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 00554) of Linda Dorcena Forry and others relative to the treatment of emotionally disturbed prisoners. Joint Committee on Mental Health and Substance Abuse.

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION  
SEE  
□ HOUSE  
□ , NO. 1947 OF 2009-2010.]

## The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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**In the Year Two Thousand Eleven**  
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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 disciplined
- 6 or punished for such behavior, nor shall the prisoner be segregated or isolated except to the
- 7 extent specifically authorized by medical staff for treatment. The use of “closed solid door

8 isolation,” so-called, to punish or manage suicidal or self-mutilating prisoners is specifically  
9 prohibited.

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

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