HOUSE DOCKET, NO. 622 FILED ON: 1/18/2011

HOUSE . . . . . No. 554

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:

An Act relative to the treatment of prisoners..

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:
Byron Rushing	*9th Suffolk*
Patricia D. Jehlen	☐ *[District]* ☐
Linda Dorcena Forry	*12th Suffolk*
Carl M. Sciortino, Jr.	*34th Middlesex*
Frank I. Smizik	*15th Norfolk*
Joyce A. Spiliotis	*12th Essex*
Elizabeth A. Malia	*11th Suffolk*
Ruth B. Balser	*12th Middlesex*
Alice K. Wolf	*25th Middlesex*
William N. Brownsberger	☐ *[District]* ☐
Gloria L. Fox	*7th Suffolk*
Kay Khan	*11th Middlesex*
Ellen Story	*3rd Hampshire*
Benjamin Swan	*11th Hampden*

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HOUSE . . . . . No. 554

By Mr. Rushing of Boston, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 554) 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. *1947* OF 2009-2010.]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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:

SECTION 1. Chapter 127 of the General Laws is hereby amended by adding after Section 32 the following new section:—

Section 32A. TREATMENT OF EMOTIONALLY DISTURBED PRISONERS

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

(1) A prisoner who either commits self-mutilation or attempts suicide shall not be disciplined or punished for such behavior, nor shall the prisoner be segregated or isolated except to the extent specifically authorized by medical staff for treatment. The use of "closed solid door isolation," so-called, to punish or manage suicidal or self-mutilating prisoners is specifically prohibited.

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

15 (1) The commissioner shall require that the following steps be taken to insure appropriate

16 responses to suicide attempts. Institutional staff will be trained in techniques for
17 responding

18 to suicide attempts and self-mutilation that ensure the safe and quick extrication of
19 prisoners

20 who hang themselves and the provision of necessary first aid. A prisoner who commits
21 selfmutilation

22 or attempts suicide shall immediately receive appropriate medical attention and

23 shall be interviewed by a licensed mental health professional within twelve hours of the

24 incident, which interview shall be logged in the inmate's medical record and in the block
25 log

26 where the prisoner is located at the time of the interview.