



## Promoting Public Safety by Reducing Substance Use In Correctional Facilities

Please consider supporting two important bills that would help to address substance use in correctional facilities. **An Act relative to education and programming for the incarcerated (S. 1391/H. 2127)** will reduce relapse triggers and improve prisoner conduct by increasing out of cell time and opportunities for prisoners to participate in institutional programs and education. **An Act establishing a commission to review substance use in correctional facilities (S. 1425/H. 1746)** will establish a committee that will collect, and review data about substance use in Massachusetts correctional institutions, jails and houses of correction.

S. 1391, Sen. Creem; H. 2127, Rep. Santiago  
S. 1425, Sen. Jehlen; H. 1746, Rep. O'Day

2019-2020 Legislative Session

### An Act relative to education and programming for the incarcerated (S. 1391/H. 2127):

**PROBLEM:** Prisons are high-risk environments for drug use and relapse.

**PROBLEM:** Drug use in prisons has long been associated with the “pains of imprisonment” encountered by prisoners such as boredom, violence, deprivation of personal autonomy and denial of important social relations.

**SOLUTION:** This bill will increase opportunities for prisoners to participate in education, training, employment, and other health related programs which have been shown to positively impact pre- and post-release outcomes for prisoners with substance use disorder.

### An Act establishing a commission to review substance use in correctional facilities (S. 1425/H. 1746)

**PROBLEM:** National studies have shown that half of all prisoners meet the DSM-V criteria for Substance Use Disorder (“SUD”), yet only a small percentage receive drug treatment during their incarceration. Moreover, many drugs are readily available in prisons and jails and prisoners develop addictions and overdose while incarcerated.

**SOLUTION:** This bill will require Massachusetts correctional facilities to provide data and statistical information related to substance use trends and the programmatic rehabilitation needs of prisoners. The commission will use the data to produce an annual report and make recommendations aimed at reducing substance use in prisons and jails in Massachusetts.

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