

HOUSE No. 2127

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Jon Santiago

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 relative to education programming for the incarcerated.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:
<i>Jon Santiago</i>	<i>9th Suffolk</i>
<i>Carlos Gonzalez</i>	<i>10th Hampden</i>
<i>Mike Connolly</i>	<i>26th Middlesex</i>
<i>Marjorie C. Decker</i>	<i>25th Middlesex</i>
<i>Mindy Domb</i>	<i>3rd Hampshire</i>
<i>James B. Eldridge</i>	<i>Middlesex and Worcester</i>
<i>Nika C. Elugardo</i>	<i>15th Suffolk</i>
<i>Sean Garballey</i>	<i>23rd Middlesex</i>
<i>James K. Hawkins</i>	<i>2nd Bristol</i>
<i>Stephan Hay</i>	<i>3rd Worcester</i>
<i>Russell E. Holmes</i>	<i>6th Suffolk</i>
<i>Mary S. Keefe</i>	<i>15th Worcester</i>
<i>David Henry Argosky LeBoeuf</i>	<i>17th Worcester</i>
<i>Elizabeth A. Malia</i>	<i>11th Suffolk</i>
<i>Liz Miranda</i>	<i>5th Suffolk</i>
<i>Denise Provost</i>	<i>27th Middlesex</i>
<i>David Allen Robertson</i>	<i>19th Middlesex</i>
<i>David M. Rogers</i>	<i>24th Middlesex</i>

<i>José F. Tosado</i>	<i>9th Hampden</i>
<i>Chynah Tyler</i>	<i>7th Suffolk</i>
<i>Tommy Vitolo</i>	<i>15th Norfolk</i>
<i>Bud L. Williams</i>	<i>11th Hampden</i>

HOUSE No. 2127

By Mr. Santiago of Boston, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 2127) of Jon Santiago and others relative to educational programming for the incarcerated. Public Safety and Homeland Security.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

**In the One Hundred and Ninety-First General Court
(2019-2020)**

An Act relative to education programming for the incarcerated.

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, as appearing in section 80 of chapter 69 of the acts of 2018, of
2 the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting the following new section immediately after
3 section 48B:-

4 Section 48C: The commissioner and administrators of state prisons and county facilities
5 shall maximize out of cell time and opportunities for prisoner participation in education, training,
6 employment, and all other programming including programming related to rehabilitation, health
7 care and substance use. All prisoners shall have the opportunity to access at least one hour of
8 programming daily at least five days a week. With the exception of restrictive housing and
9 security or operational emergencies, no prisoner shall be locked into a cell for more than 16
10 hours daily.

11 SECTION 2: Section 48 of Chapter 127, as appearing in section 80 of chapter 69 of the
12 acts of 2018, is hereby amended by adding the following sentence immediately after the first

13 sentence of the second paragraph (“The commissioner shall ensure that at least 1 educational
14 program leading to the award of a high school equivalency certificate is available to persons who
15 are committed to the custody of the department or to a county correctional facility for not less
16 than 6 months and who have not obtained a high school degree or equivalency”):

17 Every state and county correctional facility must have at least one general high school
18 equivalency (GED) class available.