

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

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**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**



CHARLES D. BAKER  
GOVERNOR

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR  
COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS  
STATE HOUSE · BOSTON, MA 02133

KARYN POLITO  
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

February 21, 2017.

To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives,

I am filing for your consideration the attached legislation entitled, “An Act Implementing the Joint Recommendations of the Massachusetts Criminal Justice Review.”

This legislation is the result of a project undertaken by the Council of State Governments Justice Center and chaired jointly by the Lieutenant Governor, Senate President, Speaker of the House of Representatives, Chief Justice of the Supreme Judicial Court and me.

We urge your favorable review of this legislation.

Respectfully submitted,

Charles D. Baker,  
*Governor*

# HOUSE . . . . . No.

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Message from His Excellency the Governor relative to implementing the joint recommendations of the Massachusetts Criminal Justice Review. The Judiciary. February 21, 2017.

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## The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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In the One Hundred and Ninetieth General Court  
(2017-2018)  
\_\_\_\_\_

An Act implementing the joint recommendations of the Massachusetts criminal justice review.

*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 32H of chapter 94C of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2014  
2 Official Edition, is hereby amended by inserting after the figure “127,” in line 15, the following  
3 words:- except as authorized pursuant to section 32H½.

4           SECTION 2. Said section 32H of said chapter 94C, as so appearing, is hereby further  
5 amended by inserting after the figure “32E,” in line 18, the following words:- , section 32H½.

6           SECTION 3. Said chapter 94C is hereby further amended by inserting after section 32H  
7 the following section:-

8           Section 32H ½. (a) As used in this section, the words “ineligible offender” shall have the  
9 following meaning: any person sentenced to a mandatory minimum term of imprisonment in the  
10 state prison governed by section 32H upon conviction for (1) violating sections 32, 32F or 32K,  
11 or subsection (c) of section 32E; (2) violating section 32A by knowingly or intentionally  
12 manufacturing, distributing, dispensing, or possessing with intent to manufacture, distribute or  
13 dispense a controlled substance defined in clauses (1), (2) or (3) of paragraph (a), or in clause (6)

14 of paragraph (b) of Class B of section thirty-one or any other offense under this chapter  
15 involving the illegal manufacturing, distribution, dispensing, or possession with intent to  
16 manufacture, distribute or dispense a naturally occurring, synthetic or semi-synthetic opioid; or  
17 (3) violating this chapter, upon a finding of any 1 of the following aggravating circumstances: (i)  
18 the person used violence or threats of violence or possessed a firearm, rifle, shotgun, machine  
19 gun or a weapon described in paragraph (b) of section 10 of chapter 269, or induced another  
20 participant to do so, during the commission of the offense; (ii) the person engaged in a course of  
21 conduct whereby he directed the activities of another who committed any felony in violation of  
22 chapter 94C; or (iii) the offense was committed during the commission or attempted commission  
23 of a violation of section 32F or section 32K of chapter 94C.

24 (b) No person serving a mandatory minimum term of imprisonment in the state prison for  
25 violating any provision of this chapter as set forth in section 32H shall be eligible for deductions  
26 from his sentence for good conduct under subsection (b) of section 129D of chapter 127 until he  
27 shall have served such mandatory minimum term of imprisonment. Any person serving a  
28 mandatory minimum term of imprisonment in the state prison for violating any provision of this  
29 chapter as set forth in section 32H shall be eligible for deductions from his sentence for good  
30 conduct under subsection (d) of section 129D of chapter 127, except that an ineligible offender  
31 serving such a mandatory minimum term shall not be eligible for such deductions until the  
32 ineligible offender shall have served such mandatory minimum term of imprisonment.

33 (c) Notwithstanding subsection (i) of section 130B of chapter 127, any person serving a  
34 mandatory minimum term of imprisonment for violating any provision of this chapter set forth in  
35 section 32H shall be eligible for a parole permit pursuant to section 130B of chapter 127 on the  
36 date determined under subsection (a) of said section 130B, except that an ineligible offender

37 shall not be eligible for such a permit until the ineligible offender shall have served such  
38 mandatory minimum term of imprisonment.

39 (d) Any person serving a mandatory minimum term of imprisonment in the state prison  
40 for violating any provision of this chapter set forth in section 32H shall be eligible for work  
41 release, except that an ineligible offender serving such a mandatory minimum term shall not be  
42 eligible for work release until such ineligible offender has served such mandatory minimum term  
43 of imprisonment

44 SECTION 4. Subsection (g) of section 1 of chapter 124 of the General Laws is hereby  
45 amended by inserting after the word “and,” in line 34, the following words:- , after consultation  
46 with the parole board,.

47 SECTION 5. Chapter 127 of the General Laws is hereby amended by striking out section  
48 129D and inserting in place thereof the following section:-

49 Section 129D. Prisoners are eligible to earn deductions from sentences and completion  
50 credits, collectively known as good conduct deductions, for participation in and completion of  
51 programs and activities as follows:

52 (a) For the satisfactory conduct of a prisoner while confined at a correctional institution  
53 of the commonwealth, or any jail or house of correction, but working at a state hospital or state  
54 school, satisfactory completion of an educational program leading to the award of a high school  
55 equivalency certificate, satisfactory performance of said prisoner in completion of any other  
56 educational sequence or any vocational training program established within or without the  
57 institution, satisfactory performance of said inmate when he is employed on work-release or in a  
58 prison industry, or satisfactory performance of said inmates in any other program or activity

59 which the superintendent of the institution shall deem valuable to said prisoner's rehabilitation,  
60 the commissioner may grant, in addition to the deductions of sentence provided under section  
61 129C, a further deduction of sentence pursuant to this section. For a prisoner serving a sentence  
62 to the state prison, such deduction shall not exceed 7.5 days per program or activity for each  
63 month while said prisoner is working in a state hospital or school, on work-release or working in  
64 a prison industry, or partaking in any of the said programs or activities as aforesaid; provided,  
65 however, that in no event shall said deductions exceed a maximum monthly total of 15 days. For  
66 a prisoner serving a sentence to the house of correction, such deduction shall not exceed 5 days  
67 per program or activity for each month while said prisoner is working in a state hospital or  
68 school, on work-release or working in a prison industry, or partaking in any of the said programs  
69 or activities as aforesaid; provided, however, that in no event shall said deductions exceed a  
70 maximum monthly total of 10 days. Further, the commissioner may grant an additional  
71 deduction of sentence of up to 10 days for a prisoner's successful completion of a program or  
72 activity, as designated by the commissioner, to be deducted in the month during which successful  
73 completion of the designated program or activity is achieved; provided, however, that for a  
74 prisoner serving a sentence to the house of correction, such additional deduction of sentence  
75 shall be granted only for completion of a program or activity requiring 6 months of satisfactory  
76 participation.

77 (b) All such deductions of sentence shall be added to any deduction to which the  
78 prisoner is entitled under section 129C for reducing the term of imprisonment by deduction from  
79 the maximum term for which the prisoner may be held under the prisoner's sentence or  
80 sentences; provided, however, that in no event shall such deductions reduce the imposed  
81 maximum term or aggregate maximum terms by more than 35 per cent.

82           (c)     In addition to the foregoing, the commissioner may also grant up to 80 days of  
83 completion credits to a prisoner serving a sentence to the state prison for successful completion  
84 of a program or activity, as designated by the commissioner, to be granted in the month during  
85 which successful completion of the designated program or activity is achieved; provided,  
86 however, that in no event shall the aggregate number of completion credits awarded to a prisoner  
87 exceed a maximum of 17.5 per cent of such prisoner's imposed maximum term of imprisonment.

88           (d)     Such deductions granted under subsection (a) and such completion credits granted  
89 under subsection (c) shall be added to any deduction to which the prisoner is entitled under  
90 section 129C for reducing from the minimum term of the sentence or sentences the good conduct  
91 credits earned under this section for parole eligibility as provided under section 133; provided,  
92 however, that in no event shall said deductions and such completion credits reduce such imposed  
93 minimum term by more than 35 per cent.

94           (e)     No prisoner shall be eligible for any deduction under subsection (a) or any  
95 completion credit under subsection (c) unless he has satisfied both the requirements of the  
96 program or activity and demonstrated competency in the material, as determined by the  
97 commissioner.

98           (f)     A prisoner whose term of imprisonment is reduced from the maximum term for  
99 which he may be held under his sentence or sentences shall receive from the commissioner a  
100 certificate of discharge on the date which has been determined by such additional deductions  
101 from the maximum term of his sentence or sentences.

102 SECTION 6. Section 130 of chapter 127 of the General Laws, as amended by chapter  
103 165 of the acts of 2014, is hereby further amended by striking out the ninth sentence and  
104 inserting in place thereof the following sentence:-

105 A prisoner to whom a parole permit is granted shall be allowed to go upon parole outside  
106 prison walls and inclosure upon such terms and conditions as the parole board shall prescribe,  
107 but shall remain, while thus on parole, subject to the jurisdiction of such board until the  
108 expiration of the term of imprisonment to which he has been sentenced or until the date which  
109 has been determined by deductions from the maximum term of his sentence or sentences for  
110 good conduct and any further deductions for compliance credits granted pursuant to section  
111 130C, provided that such combined deductions shall not exceed 35 per cent of the term of  
112 imprisonment to which he has been sentenced or until such earlier date as the board shall  
113 determine that it is in the public interest for such prisoner to be granted a certificate of  
114 termination of sentence.

115 SECTION 7. Chapter 127 of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after  
116 section 130A the following 2 sections:-

117 Section 130B. (a) As used in this section, the following terms shall have the following  
118 meanings:

119 "Parole plan" shall mean a plan, approved by the Parole Board, that includes the general  
120 and special conditions of parole and requirements for: (a) a parolee's physical address and co-  
121 habitants, if any; (b) verification of employment, efforts to seek employment or inability to  
122 obtain employment; and (c) an initial reporting date on which the parolee must report in person  
123 to a parole field office.

124 “Release to supervision date” shall mean the date which has been determined by  
125 deductions from the maximum term of a prisoner’s sentence for good conduct deductions under  
126 subsection (a) of section 129D and a further deduction for any program completion credits  
127 earned under subsection (c) of section 129D; provided that in no event shall such date be earlier  
128 than the date which has been determined by reducing a prisoner’s imposed maximum term of  
129 sentence by 35 per cent.

130 (b) Notwithstanding sections 133 and 136 and the first eight sentences of section 130, if a  
131 prisoner serving a sentence to state prison has not been granted a parole permit by the prisoner’s  
132 release to supervision date, then the parole board shall issue a parole permit to that prisoner for  
133 the remainder of his sentence, as reduced by any good conduct deductions pursuant to section  
134 129D(b); provided, however, that in no event shall a parole permit issue pursuant to this section  
135 unless the prisoner has been awarded at least 30 days of completion credits under section  
136 129D(c); and provided further, however, that in no event shall a parole permit issue pursuant to  
137 this section unless the prospective parolee submits a parole plan approved by the parole board.

138 (c) The terms and conditions of the prisoner’s parole shall be determined by the parole  
139 board. The parole board’s determination of such terms and conditions under this section shall  
140 not be the subject of judicial review. Such terms and conditions may be revised, altered and  
141 amended, and may be revoked, by the parole board at any time. The violation by the holder of  
142 such permit or any of its terms or conditions, or of any law of the commonwealth, may render  
143 such permit void, and thereupon, or if such permit has been revoked, the parole board may order  
144 his arrest and his return to prison, in accordance with the provisions of sections 149 and 149A.



145 (d) If a prisoner has two or more sentences to be served otherwise than concurrently, the  
146 maximum term of his sentence for purposes of subsection (a) shall be the aggregate maximum  
147 term of such sentences. If a prisoner has two or more sentences to be served concurrently, the  
148 maximum term of his sentence for purposes of subsection (a) shall be the maximum term of the  
149 latest date of such sentences.

150 (e) A parolee whose permit to be at liberty has been issued pursuant to this section shall  
151 enjoy the same privileges and be subject to the same rules, policies, procedures and jurisdiction  
152 of the parole board, as if his parole permit had been granted by the parole board pursuant to any  
153 other statute authorizing the parole board to grant such permits.

154 (f) The commissioner shall make available to the parole board all information in his  
155 possession relating to any prisoner whose case is under consideration. Such information to be  
156 made available shall include the following: (i) information concerning the prisoner's conduct in  
157 prison, including a statement as to all infractions of prison rules and discipline, all punishments  
158 meted out to such prisoner, and the circumstances connected therewith, (ii) information  
159 concerning the extent to which such prisoner has responded to the efforts made in prison to  
160 improve his mental and moral condition, including to the extent available, information as to the  
161 prisoner's attitude toward society, toward those responsible for his arrest, prosecution, and  
162 conviction, and how the prisoner then regards the crime for which he is in prison and his  
163 previous criminal career; (iii) information concerning the prisoner's industrial record while in  
164 prison, the nature of his occupations while in prison, and recommendations as are available as to  
165 the kind of work he is best fitted to perform and at which he is most likely to succeed when he  
166 leaves prison; (iv) information concerning the results of such physical, mental and psychiatric  
167 examinations as have been made of such prisoner which so far as practicable shall have been

168 made within two months of the time of his release on parole; (v) information concerning the  
169 prisoner's social, physical, mental and psychiatric condition and history; (vi) information  
170 concerning the prisoner's record of participation in available work opportunities and education or  
171 treatment programs and demonstrated good behavior while in prison, including a description of  
172 each program completed by the prisoner, the number of completion credits granted to the  
173 prisoner for each program completed, and the date on which the prisoner's permit to be at liberty  
174 shall expire; and (vii) information concerning the crime or crimes for which the prisoner is then  
175 sentenced, including the circumstances of such crime or crimes, the nature of his sentence or  
176 sentences, the court in which he was sentenced, the name of the judge and district attorney, and  
177 copies of such probation reports as may have been made.

178           These records shall be made available to the parole board so as to be readily accessible  
179 when the parole or pardon of such prisoner is being considered.

180           (g) This section shall not apply to prisoners serving a Massachusetts sentence in a  
181 correctional institution of another state or the federal government.

182           (h) This section shall not apply to prisoners in the custody of the department of  
183 correction but who are serving a sentence imposed by another state or the federal government.

184           (i) A person ineligible for parole because he is serving a mandatory minimum term of  
185 imprisonment shall not, until he shall have served such mandatory minimum term of  
186 imprisonment, be eligible for a parole permit under subsection (b), except as otherwise provided  
187 by law. Habitual offenders sentenced under subsection (b) of section 25 of chapter 279 shall not  
188 be eligible for a parole permit under subsection (b).

189           Section 130C. (a) For the satisfactory conduct of a parolee under the supervision of the  
190 parole board who is serving a sentence to state prison, the chairman of the parole board or his  
191 designee may grant compliance credits of up to a maximum monthly total of 15 days; provided,  
192 however, that no compliance credits may be granted to a person serving a mandatory minimum  
193 sentence until he shall have served the mandatory minimum term. Any compliance credits so  
194 granted and not rescinded pursuant to subsection (b) shall reduce the period of time that a parolee  
195 is subject to the jurisdiction of the parole board under section 130.

196           (b) The parole board shall issue regulations governing the rescission of compliance  
197 credits for violation of the terms and conditions of parole.

198           (c) The award or rescission of credits pursuant to this section shall not be the subject of  
199 judicial review.

200           (d) This section shall not apply to a prisoner who has been sentenced for life.

201           (e) This section shall not apply to a parolee who received his parole permit pursuant to  
202 section 130B.

203           SECTION 8. Section 1 of chapter 211F of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2014  
204 Official Edition, is hereby amended by adding the following 2 definitions:-

205           “Pretrial services plan”, a written proposal submitted to the executive director for  
206 approval and funding as a pretrial services program.

207           “Pretrial services program”, any program that is operated by a state, local, or private  
208 service agency, that the office of community corrections has deemed appropriate for a person  
209 awaiting trial. Pretrial service programs shall be a separate track of programming from

210 community correction programs offered under section 3 of this chapter. Sanctions under said  
211 section 3 shall not be applicable to the pretrial service program track.

212 SECTION 9. Section 2 of said chapter 211F, as so appearing, is hereby amended by  
213 inserting after the word “of”, in line 3, the following words:- pretrial services program and.

214 SECTION 10. Said section 2 of said chapter 211F, as so appearing, is hereby further  
215 amended by inserting the word “developing,” in line 5, the following words:- pretrial services  
216 programs and.

217 SECTION 11. Said section 2 of said chapter 211F, as so appearing, is hereby further  
218 amended by inserting after the word “corrections,” in line 9, the following words:- and pretrial  
219 services.

220 SECTION 12. Said chapter 211F is hereby amended by inserting after section 3 the  
221 following 2 sections:-

222 Section 3A. (a) Participation in a pretrial services program may be ordered by the court,  
223 in lieu of bail or as a condition of release consistent with sections 57, 58, and 58A of chapter  
224 276. The court may dictate the duration and conditions of the pretrial services program. Any  
225 conditions should be imposed to ensure return of the defendant to court or, where permitted by  
226 law, to assure the safety of any person or the community.

227 (b) The probation department may utilize pretrial services programs for pretrial  
228 supervision consistent with sections 87 and 87A of chapter 276, upon agreement by the person  
229 before the court who is charged with an offense or crime.

230 (c) If the sheriff who has custody of a person held on bail under section 57 or 58 of  
231 chapter 276 determines that the person would benefit from entering a pretrial services program,  
232 the sheriff shall provide a written recommendation of such determination to the court, the  
233 commissioner of probation, the prosecuting office, and the person, or where applicable the  
234 person's attorney. The prosecuting office may notify the victim of the sheriff's recommendation  
235 upon receipt of such recommendation. If the commissioner of probation or the prosecuting office  
236 objects to such recommendation, they shall file a written objection with the court within fourteen  
237 days of receipt of such notice. Upon receipt of such objection, the court may set the matter for  
238 hearing. After expiration of the time for filing objections and after hearing, if applicable, the  
239 court shall either decline to modify its earlier bail order or make an order under subsection (a) of  
240 this section authorizing the person's participation in a pretrial services program. In no event shall  
241 the person held on bail be ordered under this paragraph to enter a pretrial services program  
242 without that person's consent.

243 (d) Placement of a person in a pretrial services program shall require victim notification  
244 as required under subsection (b) of section 3 of chapter 258B.

245 Section 3B. (a) For any person sentenced to probation supervision who has not been  
246 sentenced to a community corrections program under section 3 of this chapter, the probation  
247 department may utilize programs offered through a community corrections program:

248 (1) for participation in court-ordered programming where such programming is  
249 available through the community corrections program; or

250 (2) upon agreement by the person so sentenced.

251 (b) The use of programs under subsection (a) of section 3B of this chapter shall not  
252 operate as an intermediate sanctions program as defined in section 1 of this chapter.

253 SECTION 13. Section 4 of said chapter 211F, as appearing in the 2014 Official Edition,  
254 is hereby amended by inserting after the word “plans,” in line 3, the following:- and pretrial  
255 services plans.

256 SECTION 14. Section 5 of said chapter 211F, as so appearing, is hereby amended by  
257 inserting after the word “commitments,” in line 10, the following words:- , reducing pretrial  
258 detention and increasing the court appearance rate.

259 SECTION 15. Chapter 276 of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after  
260 section 87A the following section:-

261 Section 87B.

262 (a) As used in section 87B, the following words shall have the following meanings:

263 “Compliance” shall mean the absence of a judicial finding of a violation of court-ordered  
264 conditions of post-disposition probation supervision.

265 “Compliance credits” shall mean credits that an eligible offender earns through  
266 compliance with court-ordered terms of post-disposition probation supervision. Such credits  
267 shall operate to reduce the length of post-disposition probation supervision.

268 “Eligible offender” shall mean an offender whose sentence includes incarceration  
269 followed by a term of probation supervision upon conviction of one or more criminal offenses  
270 and has been released to probation after serving the incarcerated sentence or incarcerated portion

271 of the sentence, excluding any person who is under post-disposition supervision for a sex offense  
272 as defined in section 178C of chapter 6.

273 (b) An eligible offender shall earn compliance credits as follows:

274 (i) An eligible offender shall begin to accrue compliance credits on the first day of  
275 the calendar month following one year of supervision on probation.

276 (ii) After completing one year of supervision on probation up to and including  
277 completion of two years of supervision on probation, on the first day of each calendar month, an  
278 eligible offender shall earn 5 days of compliance credits if the eligible offender was in  
279 compliance for the prior calendar month.

280 (iii) After completing two years of supervision, on the first day of each calendar  
281 month, an eligible offender shall earn 10 days of compliance credits if the eligible offender was  
282 in compliance for the previous calendar month.

283 (c) Compliance credits shall not accrue during any calendar month in which a  
284 violation of probation is pending. Once a violation of probation hearing is held, if the court does  
285 not find a violation, compliance credits shall be awarded retroactive to the filing of the violation.

286 (d) If the court finds a violation of court-ordered conditions of post-disposition  
287 probation supervision, then (i) the eligible offender may not be awarded compliance credits for  
288 the time during which the violation was pending; and (ii), the court may also revoke any earned  
289 compliance credits. If the court places the eligible offender in a correctional institution upon  
290 revocation, any compliance credits previously earned by the eligible offender shall be revoked.

291 (e) Quarterly the Probation Service shall calculate an eligible offender's supervision  
292 termination date, taking into consideration any earned compliance credits. Upon such  
293 calculation, the Probation Service shall inform the eligible offender of the termination date.

294 (f) At sentencing, the court shall notify an eligible offender that compliance with  
295 post-disposition supervision conditions shall result in earning compliance credits.

296 SECTION 16. Section 32H1/2 of chapter 94C of the General Laws shall apply to any  
297 sentence for an offense committed after the effective date of this act.

298 SECTION 17. Any offender who has been granted a parole permit prior to the effective  
299 date of this act shall not be eligible to earn compliance credits under section 130C of chapter 127  
300 of the General Laws.

301 SECTION 18. Subsections (a) and (b) of section 3A of chapter 211F of the General  
302 Laws shall apply to persons charged after the effective date of this act and to persons held in jail  
303 beginning on the effective date of this act.

304 SECTION 19. Section 3B of chapter 211F shall apply to persons on probation  
305 supervision on or after the effective date of this act.

306 SECTION 20. Any offender who has started probation supervision prior to the effective  
307 date of this act shall not be eligible to earn compliance credits under section 87B of chapter 276  
308 of the General Laws.

309 SECTION 21. This act shall take effect nine months after passage.