



## *The Commonwealth of Massachusetts*

Joint Committee on Tourism, Arts, & Cultural Development

Massachusetts General Court

State House, Room 195, Boston 02133-1054

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John D. Keenan  
House Chair

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### **Rep. Keenan Joins Colleagues Passes Bill Banning Assault on Correctional Officers with Bodily Fluids** *Establishes Punishments for Offenders*

(BOSTON) – State Representative John D. Keenan (D-Salem) joined his colleagues in the Massachusetts House of Representatives in unanimously passing legislation establishing punishment for the assault and battery of a correctional officer or employee of any jail with bodily fluids.

“We need to protect the hardworking people in our houses of correction who work to ensure our security and the rehabilitation of our inmates,” House Speaker Robert A. DeLeo said. “This bill would establish much-needed, strict sentencing guidelines and punishments for inmates who assault corrections officials with bodily fluids.”

“This bill will help protect the men and women who work in our correctional facilities,” said Rep. Keenan. “Working in a correctional institution can be stressful and hazardous. Every year, correctional officers are injured in confrontations with inmates. Correctional officers have one of the highest rates of nonfatal on-the-job injuries and with passage of this bill is sends a strong message that assault of a correctional officer will not be tolerated.”

The bill would establish sentencing guidelines of up to 15 years in state prison for instances of assault and battery with bodily fluids.

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