



**Massachusetts
Municipal
Association**

60 Temple Place

Boston, Massachusetts 02111 - (617) 426-7272

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CAMBRIDGE MA

12/29/86

ALERT ** SUICIDE PREVENTION DEADLINE EXTENDED ** ALERT

Dear Local Official,

Through the aggressive efforts of the Municipal Association and with the cooperation of Senator Richard Kraus and Representative Nicholas Buglione, the implementation date of the suicide prevention statute has been extended to June 30, 1987.

Many communities were unable to secure bids for the renovation of local jail cells or adequate amounts of materials needed to line the cells with plexiglass and install monitoring devices by the previous deadline of January 1, 1987. Some vendors had inadequate supplies of the materials available, many communities experienced delays in receiving complete specifications for the work from the state, while many others received bids considerably higher than the amount allocated for the reconstruction work.

All of these delays could have resulted in increased liability for municipalities if the implementation date had not been moved forward.

The legislature, however, is very concerned about the issue of local jail related suicides and has made very clear its intention to hold to the new May 31, 1987 deadline. WE HAVE BEEN INFORMED THAT THERE WILL BE NO FURTHER EXTENSIONS OF THE DEADLINE. All work connected with this statute must be completed by June 30, 1987. If you are having any problems in implementing the statute, please call either Andrew Paven or Jack Bradshaw at the state's Division of Capitol Planning and Operations at 727-4053.

If you have further questions about the extension, please feel free to call me.

Sincerely,

Sheila Cheimets, Director Legislative Division

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Comm. from Sheila Cheimets, Dir., Mass.
Municipal Assoc. Legislative Division Re:
extension of implementation date of the
suicide prevention statute to June 30,
1987.

In City Council,

January 5, 1987

Placed on F. Le
Copy to Police Chief
copy sent to the Police Chief
1/7/87 mh