

From: Avitzur, Michael (SEN)

Sent: Wednesday, July 20, 2011 10:49 AM

To: Powell, Richard (SEN); Kelly, Arianna (SEN); Blundell, Shane (SEN); Saubermann, Jennifer (SEN)

Subject: Article in today's Globe relating to DNA bill (S. 753)

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Bennett hopes Powell's case will call attention to a bill to be debated soon in the State House.

The bill, sponsored by state Senator Cynthia Stone Creem, a Newton Democrat, and state Representative John V. Fernandes, a Milford Democrat, would require the state to maintain DNA evidence and give convicts easier access to DNA testing that could prove their innocence.

Similar measures have failed to pass for the past 10 years, Bennett said. This time, the bill's language was written by the Boston Bar Association with input from a task force of retired judges, prosecutors, defense lawyers, scientists, and law enforcement officials including Boston Police Commissioner Edward F. Davis.

Jake Wark, a spokesman for Suffolk District Attorney Daniel F. Conley, said last night that Conley "supports inmate access to postconviction testing and routinely assents to it because it's the right thing to do. The Innocence Project has said our policies in Suffolk County put us at the nation's forefront in preventing wrongful convictions."

Bennett and other advocates hope that the consensus reached by the task force will help push the bill through the Legislature.

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http://www.boston.com/news/local/massachusetts/articles/2011/07/20/guilty_plea_due_in_wrongful_conviction/?p1=Local_Links