

HOUSE No. 1351

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Colleen M. Garry

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 passage of the accompanying bill:

An Act to further protect children.

PETITION OF:

NAME:

Colleen M. Garry

DISTRICT/ADDRESS:

36th Middlesex

HOUSE No. 1351

By Ms. Garry of Dracut, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 1351) of Colleen M. Garry relative to the reporting of a missing child. The Judiciary.

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION
SEE
□ HOUSE
□ , NO. 3905 OF 2011-2012.]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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In the Year Two Thousand Thirteen
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An Act to further protect children.

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 269 of the General Laws is hereby amended by adding the
2 following new section:

3 Section 20: A parent, legal guardian or caretaker who willfully fails to contact law
4 enforcement or emergency personnel concerning the safety of a minor child, 16 years of age or
5 younger, in his or her care whose whereabouts has not been ascertained within the past 48 hours
6 shall be punished by imprisonment in state prison for not more than five years.

7 A parent, legal guardian or caretaker of a minor child, 16 years of age or younger, who
8 has knowledge of the death of said child, and who fails to notify law enforcement or emergency
9 personnel of said death within one hour of occurrence, shall be punishable by imprisonment in
10 state prison for not more than five years, or by a fine of not more than ten thousand dollars and
11 imprisonment in a house of correction for not more than two and one half years.