

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 1648**

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The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

*David T. Vieira*

*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 adoption of the accompanying bill:

An Act relative to possession of hypodermic needles and protecting public safety officials.

PETITION OF:

NAME:

*David T. Vieira*

DISTRICT/ADDRESS:

*3rd Barnstable*

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 1648**

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By Mr. Vieira of Falmouth, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 1648) of David T. Vieira for legislation to further protect first responders from unprotected exposures caused by needles and establishing a penalty for lying to emergency personnel about possession of such needles .  
The Judiciary.

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The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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In the One Hundred and Eighty-Ninth General Court  
(2015-2016)  
\_\_\_\_\_

An Act relative to possession of hypodermic needles and protecting public safety officials.

*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. With the success of Chapter 172 of the Acts of 2006, which legalized the  
2 possession of hypodermic needles with the intent of curbing the transmission of blood borne  
3 diseases through the sharing of needles, and protecting our first responders by letting people who  
4 are being treated or being placed in police custody to freely admit to having needles without fear  
5 of repercussions of law.

6 Let us further protect our first responders from unprotected exposures caused by needles,  
7 by creating an incentive for those with needles in their possession to inform those who may be  
8 accidentally stuck by the needle.

9

10 SECTION 2

11

12 Chapter 94C is hereby amended by adding the following:

13 Section 32O; Whoever has in their possession or under their control a hypodermic needle  
14 and when asked by law enforcement, fire, or EMS personnel who are acting in their duties, if  
15 they have a needle and either refuse to answer or say no, shall be punished by imprisonment in  
16 jail or house of correction for not more than one year, or by a fine of not less than five hundred  
17 nor more than five thousand dollars, or both.