

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 2193**

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**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

PRESENTED BY:

**Bruce J. Ayers**

*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 establishing an emergency equipment grant program for firefighters. .

PETITION OF:

NAME:

Bruce J. Ayers

DISTRICT/ADDRESS:

1st Norfolk

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION

SEE HOUSE, NO. 629 OF .]

## The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand and Nine

### AN ACT ESTABLISHING AN EMERGENCY EQUIPMENT GRANT PROGRAM FOR FIREFIGHTERS.

*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 6A of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2004 Official Edition, is hereby amended by  
2 inserting after section 18 the following new section:—  
3 Section 18¼. The Executive Office of Public Safety, in consultation with the State Fire Marshal, the Massachusetts  
4 Fire Chiefs Association and the Professional Firefighters of Massachusetts AFL-CIO-CLC, shall annually  
5 promulgate a listing of fire equipment devices and new technologies that are considered vital to the safety, health  
6 and welfare of firefighters responding to fire emergencies and other public safety situations. Said list shall indicate  
7 the value of the stated equipment with respect to particular emergency situations and shall further detail the number  
8 of pieces of equipment recommended based on size of department and population served.  
9 Such list shall be finalized no later than February first of each year and shall include items both vital to maintaining  
10 the integrity and effectiveness of department equipment and the personal health and safety of firefighters. This list  
11 should focus on minimum needs, recommended apparatus and suggested new technologies that have proven useful  
12 in managing and containing fires and protecting the lives of response personnel and victims. Upon completion, the  
13 summary list prepared under the provisions of this section shall be forwarded to each local fire chief and the  
14 president of the local representative labor organization corresponding with said fire chief's district.  
15 All local Fire Chiefs, in conjunction with the appropriate representative labor organization corresponding with said  
16 fire chief's district, shall annually audit each department to ascertain whether the department meets the target criteria  
17 established in paragraph one of this section. Deficiencies in recommended equipment and the lack of available,  
18 suggested technologies in each department shall be reported to the Secretary of the Executive Office of Public  
19 Safety and the State Fire Marshal no later than March fifteenth of each year. Said Secretary shall then determine the  
20 cost of supplying departments with all equipment necessary to eliminate the deficiencies reported in accordance with  
21 this paragraph and shall separately determine the cost of purchasing all suggested equipment local departments have  
22 reported as not within their possession. No later than April seventh of each year, said Secretary shall submit the  
23 calculation of these costs to the house and senate committees on ways and means and recommend the inclusion of an  
24 appropriation within the annual general appropriation act to rectify all deficient conditions at local fire departments  
25 and to upgrade departments by providing the latest fire safety equipment.

26 Subject to appropriation, said secretary shall make targeted grants to local fire departments for the purpose of  
27 upgrading the response and safety equipment to meet target criteria established in paragraph one of this section.  
28 Such grants will be based on need and the principle of maximizing the available appropriation to account for the  
29 greatest improvement in public safety; provided that at least fifty percent of any amount so appropriated is  
30 earmarked for distribution to fire departments serving populations under 50,000 residents.