

HOUSE No. 03165

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

HOUSE No. 03165

By Mr. Ayers of Quincy, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 3165) of Ayers for legislation to establish an emergency equipment grant program for fire fighters Joint Committee on Public Safety and Homeland Security.

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION
SEE
□ HOUSE
□ , NO. 2193 OF 2009-2010.]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand Eleven

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
- 2 hereby amended by inserting after section 18 the following new section:—
- 3 Section 18¼. The Executive Office of Public Safety, in consultation with the State Fire Marshal,
- 4 the Massachusetts Fire Chiefs Association and the Professional Firefighters of Massachusetts
- 5 AFL-CIO-CLC, shall annually promulgate a listing of fire equipment devices and new
- 6 technologies that are considered vital to the safety, health and welfare of firefighters responding
- 7 to fire emergencies and other public safety situations. Said list shall indicate the value of the
- 8 stated equipment with respect to particular emergency situations and shall further detail the

9 number of pieces of equipment recommended based on size of department and population
10 served.

11 Such list shall be finalized no later than February first of each year and shall include items both
12 vital to maintaining the integrity and effectiveness of department equipment and the personal
13 health and safety of firefighters. This list should focus on minimum needs, recommended
14 apparatus and suggested new technologies that have proven useful in managing and containing
15 fires and protecting the lives of response personnel and victims. Upon completion, the summary
16 list prepared under the provisions of this section shall be forwarded to each local fire chief and
17 the president of the local representative labor organization corresponding with said fire chief's
18 district.

19 All local Fire Chiefs, in conjunction with the appropriate representative labor organization
20 corresponding with said fire chief's district, shall annually audit each department to ascertain
21 whether the department meets the target criteria established in paragraph one of this section.
22 Deficiencies in recommended equipment and the lack of available, suggested technologies in
23 each department shall be reported to the Secretary of the Executive Office of Public Safety and
24 the State Fire Marshal no later than March fifteenth of each year. Said Secretary shall then
25 determine the cost of supplying departments with all equipment necessary to eliminate the
26 deficiencies reported in accordance with this paragraph and shall separately determine the cost of
27 purchasing all suggested equipment local departments have reported as not within their
28 possession. No later than April seventh of each year, said Secretary shall submit the calculation
29 of these costs to the house and senate committees on ways and means and recommend the
30 inclusion of an appropriation within the annual general appropriation act to rectify all deficient

31 conditions at local fire departments and to upgrade departments by providing the latest fire safety
32 equipment.

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