

HOUSE No. 955

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Todd M. Smola

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 insurance companies and death certificates.

PETITION OF:

NAME:

Todd M. Smola

DISTRICT/ADDRESS:

1st Hampden

HOUSE No. 955

By Mr. Smola of Warren, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 955) of Todd M. Smola relative to insurance companies and death certificates. Financial Services.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

An Act relative to insurance companies and death certificates.

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. Section 4 of chapter 38 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2012
2 Official Edition, is hereby amended adding the following paragraph:-

3 If, in carrying out the duties prescribed by this section, the inquiry and investigation into
4 the cause and circumstances of a death shall require the chief medical examiner, or his designee,
5 to list the cause of death on a death certificate issued by the chief medical examiner, or such
6 designee, as pending, the office shall, at the request of a beneficiary of the decedent’s life
7 insurance policy, issue a letter to the decedent’s insurer regarding the beneficiary’s role in the
8 decedent’s death or lack thereof.

9 SECTION 2. Section 132 of chapter 175 of the General Laws, as so appearing, is hereby
10 amended by inserting in the first paragraph, after subparagraph 12, the following subparagraph:-

11 13. A provision that the company shall process a claim filed by a beneficiary upon the
12 death of the policy holder upon receiving, in lieu of a certified copy of a death certificate with

13 cause of death listed, an official copy of a death certificate with cause of death listed as pending
14 and a letter from the office of the chief medical officer pursuant to the fifth paragraph of section
15 4 of chapter 38.