

HOUSE No. 2478

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Frank I. Smizik

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 requiring disclosure of solvents used in dry cleaning.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	DATE ADDED:
<i>Frank I. Smizik</i>	<i>15th Norfolk</i>	<i>1/20/2017</i>
<i>James B. Eldridge</i>	<i>Middlesex and Worcester</i>	
<i>Barbara A. L'Italien</i>	<i>Second Essex and Middlesex</i>	
<i>Kathleen O'Connor Ives</i>	<i>First Essex</i>	
<i>Alice Hanlon Peisch</i>	<i>14th Norfolk</i>	
<i>James R. Miceli</i>	<i>19th Middlesex</i>	
<i>Marjorie C. Decker</i>	<i>25th Middlesex</i>	
<i>Jonathan Hecht</i>	<i>29th Middlesex</i>	
<i>James M. Cantwell</i>	<i>4th Plymouth</i>	
<i>Paul R. Heroux</i>	<i>2nd Bristol</i>	
<i>Solomon Goldstein-Rose</i>	<i>3rd Hampshire</i>	
<i>Louis L. Kafka</i>	<i>8th Norfolk</i>	
<i>Michelle M. DuBois</i>	<i>10th Plymouth</i>	

HOUSE No. 2478

By Mr. Smizik of Brookline, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 2478) of Frank I. Smizik and others relative to the disclosure requirements for dry cleaners using toxic chemicals. Public Health.

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION
SEE HOUSE, NO. 2068 OF 2015-2016.]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

**In the One Hundred and Ninetieth General Court
(2017-2018)**

An Act requiring disclosure of solvents used in dry cleaning.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1 Chapter 111 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2014 Official Edition, is hereby
2 amended by adding after section 235 the following section:—

3 Section 236. (a) The following words shall, unless the context clearly requires otherwise,
4 have the following meanings:-

5 “Professional Garment Cleaner”, a business that removes soil, greases, paints and other
6 unwanted substances from garments.

7 “Dry Cleaning Solvent”, a chemical other than water used to remove soil, greases, paints
8 and other unwanted substances from garments, including perchloroethylene, n-propyl bromide,

9 and other organic solvents, including high flashpoint hydrocarbons, acetals, and glycol ethers,
10 and siloxanes.

11 “Professional Wet Cleaning”, a water-based process to clean textiles (including wool,
12 silk, rayon, natural and man-made fibers) that uses specialized washers and dryers, detergents,
13 and specialized finishing equipment.

14 (b) Not later than January 1, 2019, professional garment cleaners using a dry cleaning
15 solvent system or a water based system are required to post the following information for full
16 disclosure to their customers, neighbors and employees. The purpose of the posting is to permit
17 consumers to gain information about the composition and potential risks associated with their
18 use.

19 (c) Professional garment cleaners that use one or more solvents for garment cleaning
20 shall post in a conspicuous location in the facility a sign (8 ½ x 11 inches) that includes the name
21 of the garment cleaner, the commercial brand name of the primary solvent used (e.g. DF2000TM
22 Fluid; Green Earth®, Solvon K4, Solvair®), the chemical name of the solvent used (e.g.
23 perchloroethylene, n-propyl bromide, hydrocarbon), and the name of the manufacturer of the
24 solvent.

25 (d) Cleaners that use water as their primary solvent (i.e., professional wet cleaning) shall
26 post in a conspicuous location in the facility a sign (8 ½ x 11 inches) that includes the name of
27 the garment cleaner and the designation of the establishment as a professional wet cleaner.

28 (e) The sign for facilities utilizing dry cleaning solvent systems shall include the
29 following words: “The primary chemical substance(s) used at this dry cleaning facility is(are)
30 _____ . Information about the hazardous chemical substance used at this dry cleaning

31 facility can be found on the website of the Massachusetts Department of Environmental
32 Protection and on the Safety Data Sheet, which may be read at
33 www.mass.gov/dep/drycleanermsds.”

34 (f) The commissioner of the department of environmental protection shall establish by
35 regulation a coded message for chemicals utilized in dry cleaning solvent systems that shall also
36 be included in the sign. The coding system shall be informed by current research on the
37 hazardous properties of each chemical utilized by garment cleaners. The system designations
38 shall categorize chemicals based on the relative safety of solvents. The system must include
39 designations for the following chemicals, including but not limited to: Perchloroethylene and n-
40 PB, Siloxane, Hydrocarbon, Acetal, Propylene Glycol Ethers. Water based systems must also be
41 included as a category in the coding system.

42 (g) Solvents included as an ingredient in spot cleaners in excess of 10% of the product are
43 required to be included as described in provision (e) above.

44 (h) The Department of Environmental Protection shall post on its website a template of
45 the sign to be used.

46 (i) The Department of Environmental Protection shall post on its website a Safety Data
47 Sheet for each category of solvents used in dry cleaning. In addition, the Department shall post
48 on its website a full report and summary of environmental, health, and safety information about
49 each solvent published by the Massachusetts Toxics Use Reduction Institute.

50 (j) If the primary chemical substance used at the dry cleaning facility is designated as a
51 Higher Hazard Substance under the Massachusetts Toxics Use Reduction Act (Chapter 21I), the

52 sign shall include the following additional words in bold red font: “This substance has been
53 designated as a Higher Hazard Substance under the Massachusetts Toxics Use Reduction Act.”

54 (k) The Department of Environmental Protection shall adopt regulations to implement
55 this section within one year of the effective date of this act.