

SENATE No. 1595

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Bruce E. Tarr

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 prohibiting soliciting acts of terrorism.

PETITION OF:

NAME:

Bruce E. Tarr

DISTRICT/ADDRESS:

First Essex and Middlesex

SENATE No. 1595

By Mr. Tarr, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 1595) of Bruce E. Tarr for legislation to prohibit soliciting acts of terrorism. Public Safety and Homeland Security.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

**In the One Hundred and Ninety-Third General Court
(2023-2024)**

An Act prohibiting soliciting acts of terrorism.

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 269 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2014 Official Edition, is hereby
2 amended by inserting after section 14 the following new section:-

3 SECTION 14 ½

4 (a) As used in this section, the term “solicits” shall mean to lure, induce, persuade, tempt,
5 incite, coax, invite, counsel, advise, request or command.

6 The term "critical infrastructure" shall mean critical public or private infrastructure
7 resource systems involved in providing services necessary to ensure or protect the public health,
8 safety and welfare, including, but not limited to, a public water system or a public water source;
9 an emergency, governmental, medical, fire or law enforcement response system; a public utility
10 system; a financial system; an educational system; or a food or clothing distribution system.

11 (b) Whoever solicits or otherwise entices or communicates or causes to be communicated
12 or published, either directly or indirectly, orally, in writing, by mail, by use of a telephone or

13 telecommunication device including, but not limited to, electronic mail, internet
14 communications, and facsimile communications, through an electronic communication device or
15 by any other means, the commission of a crime that involves acts dangerous to (i) human life; (ii)
16 property; or (iii) critical infrastructure, shall be punished as follows:

17 For acts dangerous to human life, by imprisonment for not more than 20 years in the state
18 prison or for not more than 2½ half years in a jail or house of correction, or by a fine of not more
19 than \$20,000, or by both such fine and imprisonment.

20 For acts dangerous to property or critical infrastructure, by imprisonment for not more
21 than 10 years in the state prison or for not more than 2½ years in a jail or house of correction, or
22 by a fine of not more than \$10,000, or by both such fine and imprisonment.

23 If a person is convicted of a crime of solicitation, counsel, advice or enticement for which
24 crime the penalty is expressly set forth in any other section of the General Laws, the provisions
25 of this section shall not apply to said crime and the penalty therefor shall be imposed pursuant to
26 the provisions of such other section.

27 Any person who is found guilty of solicitation, counsel, advice or enticement which
28 results in the loss of human life shall be punished by imprisonment in the state prison for life and
29 shall be eligible for parole after the term of years fixed by the court pursuant to section 24 of
30 chapter 279.

31 (c) Notwithstanding any other law, an indictment may be found at any time without
32 limitation for any violation of this section, if the commission of such offense resulted in, or
33 created a foreseeable risk of, death or serious bodily injury to another person; damage to
34 property; or infrastructure.

35 (d) The court shall, after conviction, conduct a hearing to ascertain the extent of costs
36 incurred, damages and financial loss suffered by an individual, public or private entity and the
37 amount of property damage caused as a result of the defendant's crime. A person found guilty of
38 violating this section shall, in all cases, in addition to any other punishment, be ordered to make
39 restitution to the individual, public or private entity for any costs incurred, damages and financial
40 loss sustained as a result of the commission of the crime. Restitution shall be imposed in addition
41 to incarceration or fine, and not in lieu thereof, however, the court shall consider the defendant's
42 present and future ability to pay in its determinations regarding a fine. In determining the
43 amount, time and method of payment of restitution, the court shall consider the financial
44 resources of the defendant and the burden restitution will impose on the defendant.

45 (e) The attorney general of the commonwealth is hereby authorized and directed to
46 undertake a review and examination of any and all sections and provisions of the general laws
47 relative to acts of terrorism and acts construed as terrorism. Such review and examination shall
48 include but not be limited to: 1) an analysis of the efficacy and suitability of such existing
49 measures to characterize, punish and enable just prosecution of acts of terrorism particularly in
50 light of changes in technology, circumstances, and information obtained by analyzing the
51 methods and strategies employed in terrorist threats and or acts over the past 10 years, 2) an
52 appraisal of the efficacy and suitability of such existing measures, including sanctions and
53 punishments, to deter such acts of terrorism, 3) an identification and cost estimate of any
54 additional resources necessary to protect public safety from terrorist acts or threats thereof, and
55 4) recommendations, if necessary, for statutory or regulatory changes to address terrorist threats
56 or acts so as to protect public safety. A report containing the results of said review and
57 examination, together with any legislative and regulatory recommendations, shall be filed with

58 the clerks of the house and senate and the joint committee on public safety and homeland
59 security, not later than May 1, 2023.