HOUSE DOCKET, NO. 2435 FILED ON: 1/20/2011

HOUSE . . . . . No. 2915

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Bradley H. Jones, Jr.

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:

An Act relative to establishing a commission to study the reorganization of municipal public safety agencies.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:
Bradley H. Jones, Jr.	*20th Middlesex*
Donald F. Humason, Jr.	*4th Hampden*
F. Jay Barrows	*1st Bristol*
Shaunna O'Connell	*3rd Bristol*
George T. Ross	*2nd Bristol*
Todd M. Smola	*1st Hampden*
Sheila C. Harrington	*1st Middlesex*
Steven L. Levy	*4th Middlesex*
Paul K. Frost	*7th Worcester*
George N. Peterson, Jr.	*9th Worcester*
Elizabeth A. Poirier	*14th Bristol*
Viriato Manuel deMacedo	*1st Plymouth*

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By Mr. Jones of North Reading, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 2915) of Bradley H. Jones, Jr., and others for an investigation by a special commission (including lmembers of the General Court) relative to the reorganization of public safety agencies in the cities and towns of the Commonwealth. Public Safety and Homeland Security.

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION
SEE
HOUSE
, NO. *2236* OF 2009-2010.]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

An Act relative to establishing a commission to study the reorganization of municipal public safety agencies.

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

SECTION 1. Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, there shall be a special commission to study the feasibility and practicality of authorizing municipalities of the commonwealth to merge their police and fire departments into single cohesive public safety agencies, under a unified command structure, while maintaining proper emergency services which will enable cities and towns to continue operations smoothly and more efficiently after police and fire unification.

The commission shall consist of 13 members; the lieutenant governor of the commonwealth, who shall chair the commission; 4 members of the senate, 3 of whom shall be appointed by the senate president, 1 of which shall be a member of the committee on public safety and 1 of which shall be a member of the committee on municipalities & regional government, and 1 of whom shall be appointed by the senate minority leader; 4 members of the house of representatives, 3 of whom shall be appointed by the speaker of the house, 1 of which shall be a member of the committee on public safety and 1 of which shall be a member of the committee on municipalities & regional government, and 1 of whom shall be appointed by the house minority leader; the secretary of the executive office of public safety or his designee; and 1 member appointed by each of the following organizations: the Massachusetts municipal

17 association, the Massachusetts association of police chiefs, and the Massachusetts firefighter's
18 association.

19 The scope of the commission's inquiry shall include, but not be limited to:

20 1. Assessing existing fire and police recruit training programs and identifying ways in
21 which new recruits could be cross- trained to take on both the roles of police officers and
22 firefighters

23 2. Identifying cost efficiencies and savings of merging police and fire departments under
24 single unified command structures, including salary, pension, and healthcare cost savings

25 3. Identifying logistical problems associated with merging police and fire departments,
26 and possible solutions to those problems

27 4. Identifying current legal and political impediments to the merging of police and fire
28 departments, and possible solutions to those impediments

29 5. Analyzing any impact on emergency services posed by merging police and fire
30 departments, and possible solutions to overcome those impacts

31 6. Identifying any other incentives and disadvantages to merging police and fire
32 departments

33 7. Recommending legislation that will promote and provide municipalities the authority
34 to effectively merge police and fire departments, if they so choose, while maintaining effective
35 emergency services under a unified department and command

36 8. Creating a report that contains the result of its investigation, including any
37 recommendations that could be used as a framework for legislation necessary to carry out each
38 recommendation accompanied with an explanation of the legislative intent of each draft
39 proposal.

40 The commission shall submit its report and findings, along with any drafts of legislation,
41 to the governor, the joint committee on municipalities and regional government, the joint
42 committee on public safety and homeland security, the office of the senate president, the office
43 of the senate minority leader, the office of the speaker of the house of representatives, the office
44 of the house minority leader, and the clerks of the house of representatives and the senate not
45 later than January 31, 2012.