

# HOUSE . . . . . No. 2915

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## The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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PRESENTED BY:

***Bradley H. Jones, Jr.***

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*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 establishing a commission to study the reorganization of municipal public safety agencies.

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PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	DATE ADDED:
<i>Bradley H. Jones, Jr.</i>	<i>20th Middlesex</i>	<i>1/20/2011</i>
<i>Donald F. Humason, Jr.</i>	<i>4th Hampden</i>	<i>1/27/2011</i>
<i>F. Jay Barrows</i>	<i>1st Bristol</i>	<i>2/2/2011</i>
<i>Shaunna O'Connell</i>	<i>3rd Bristol</i>	<i>2/2/2011</i>
<i>George T. Ross</i>	<i>2nd Bristol</i>	<i>2/3/2011</i>
<i>Todd M. Smola</i>	<i>1st Hampden</i>	<i>2/3/2011</i>
<i>Sheila C. Harrington</i>	<i>1st Middlesex</i>	<i>2/3/2011</i>
<i>Steven L. Levy</i>	<i>4th Middlesex</i>	<i>2/4/2011</i>
<i>Paul K. Frost</i>	<i>7th Worcester</i>	<i>2/4/2011</i>
<i>George N. Peterson, Jr.</i>	<i>9th Worcester</i>	<i>2/4/2011</i>
<i>Elizabeth A. Poirier</i>	<i>14th Bristol</i>	<i>1/21/2011</i>
<i>Viriato Manuel deMacedo</i>	<i>1st Plymouth</i>	<i>2/1/2011</i>

# HOUSE . . . . . No. 2915

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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 members 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.

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

## The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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In the Year Two Thousand Eleven  
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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:*

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

7           The commission shall consist of 13 members; the lieutenant governor of the  
8 commonwealth, who shall chair the commission; 4 members of the senate, 3 of whom shall be  
9 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 association, the Massachusetts association of police chiefs, and the Massachusetts firefighter's association.

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

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

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

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

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

5. Analyzing any impact on emergency services posed by merging police and fire 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.