

HOUSE No. 2121

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Ruth B. Balser

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 enhanced fire protection in new one and two family dwellings.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	DATE ADDED:
<i>Ruth B. Balser</i>	<i>12th Middlesex</i>	
<i>Josh S. Cutler</i>	<i>6th Plymouth</i>	
<i>Geoff Diehl</i>	<i>7th Plymouth</i>	
<i>Jonathan Hecht</i>	<i>29th Middlesex</i>	
<i>Todd M. Smola</i>	<i>1st Hampden</i>	
<i>Nicholas A. Boldyga</i>	<i>3rd Hampden</i>	
<i>Donald Humason</i>		
<i>Anne M. Gobi</i>	<i>5th Worcester</i>	
<i>Thomas P. Kennedy</i>	<i>Second Plymouth and Bristol</i>	
<i>Denise Andrews</i>	<i>2nd Franklin</i>	
<i>Kate Hogan</i>	<i>3rd Middlesex</i>	

HOUSE No. 2121

By Ms. Balser of Newton, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 2121) of Ruth B. Balser and others for legislation to require the installation of sprinkler systems in new or substantially rehabilitated construction of single and two family homes. Public Safety and Homeland Security.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand Thirteen

An Act relative to enhanced fire protection in new one and two family dwellings.

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. Chapter 148 of the General laws, as appearing in the 2012 “Official
2 Edition”, is hereby amended by adding the following new section:-

3 Section 26J. In any city or town which accepts the provisions of this section, any newly
4 constructed building or any existing building substantially rehabilitated so as to constitute the
5 equivalent of new construction, designed or used for residential occupancy and containing not
6 more than two dwelling units, shall be protected throughout with an adequate system of
7 automatic sprinklers installed in accordance with the provisions of the state building code. The
8 provisions of this section shall apply to any such building for which a building permit is issued
9 on or after one year from the acceptance of this act by a city or town.

10 The head of the fire department shall enforce the provisions of this section.

11 Whoever is aggrieved by the head of the fire department’s interpretation, order,
12 requirement, direction or failure to act under the provisions of this section, may, within forty-five
13 days after the service of notice thereof, appeal from such interpretation, order, requirement,
14 direction, or failure to act, to the board of appeals as provided in section 100 of chapter 143.

15 SECTION 2. Section 27A of chapter 148, as so appearing, is amended by inserting, after
16 the word “service”, in lines 17 and 18, the following new sentence:- This section shall not apply
17 to the seasonal shut-off of automatic sprinklers installed in accordance with the provisions of
18 section 26J of chapter 148, when such shut off has been conducted in accordance with the

19 procedures established by the Board of Fire Prevention Regulations. For purposes of this
20 section, the Board shall determine what constitutes a seasonal shutoff of automatic sprinklers.