

# SENATE . . . . . No. 1128

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## The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

***Kenneth J. Donnelly***

*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 the installation of approved smoke detectors in certain residential buildings and structures.

PETITION OF:

NAME:

DISTRICT/ADDRESS:

*Kenneth J. Donnelly*

*Fourth Middlesex*

*Robert F. Fennell*

*10th Essex*

# SENATE . . . . . No. 1128

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By Mr. Donnelly, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 1128) of Kenneth J. Donnelly and Robert F. Fennell for legislation relative to the installation of approved smoke detectors in certain residential buildings and structures. Public Safety and Homeland Security.

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## The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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In the Year Two Thousand Thirteen  
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An Act relative to the installation of approved smoke detectors in certain residential buildings and structures.

*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 2010 Official  
2 Edition, is hereby amended by striking out section 26D and inserting in place thereof the  
3 following section:-

4           Section 26D. (a) Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary and without  
5 regard to the date of construction, every existing 1 or 2 family building or structure and every  
6 existing building or structure containing more than 1 but fewer than 6 dwelling units, occupied in  
7 whole or in part for residential purposes shall, upon sale or transfer of such building or structure,  
8 be equipped by the seller with approved smoke detectors in accordance with the rules and  
9 regulations of the board of fire prevention regulations. The head of the fire department shall  
10 inspect such building or structure at the time of sale or transfer for compliance with this section.  
11 For the purposes of this section, an existing building or structure shall not include those buildings  
12 or structures for which a certificate of occupancy has been issued within five years prior to the  
13 date of sale or transfer.

14           (b) The rules and regulations of the Board of Fire Prevention Regulations, established in  
15 accordance with this section, may require the upgrade, installation or replacement of smoke  
16 detector devices based upon advances in smoke detection technology; provided, however that, in  
17 any building or dwelling unit constructed prior to January 1, 1975 which has not undergone an  
18 alteration or change of use since January 1, 1975 which would require it to comply with the  
19 smoke detector provisions of the State Building Code, the installation of approved monitored  
20 battery power smoke detectors shall be allowed; and, provided further, that the relocation or

21 addition of any smoke detector device or the relocation or addition of any power supply wire  
22 associated with such smoke detector device, if such device location or wire location was installed  
23 in accordance with the requirements of the State Building Code in effect as of the date of such  
24 installation, shall not be required.

25 For purposes of this section, approved monitored battery power smoke detector, shall be  
26 a smoke detector which is activated, at a minimum, by an operable ten-year, sealed battery power  
27 source; provided that the battery is monitored to assure that the following conditions are met:

28 (i) a distinctive audible trouble signal is given before the battery is incapable of  
29 operating the device for alarm purposes, and that such audible trouble signal is produced at least  
30 once every minute for seven consecutive days, and

31 (ii) the unit is capable of producing an alarm signal for at least four continuous  
32 minutes at the battery voltage at which a trouble signal is normally obtained followed by seven  
33 days of trouble signal operation, and

34 (iii) the monitored batteries meeting these specifications are clearly identified on  
35 the unit.

36 (c) The head of the fire department shall enforce this section.

37 (d) Nothing in this section shall abrogate the authority of the state board of building  
38 regulations and standards to regulate smoke detector requirements for the construction of new  
39 buildings and for existing buildings undergoing repair, alteration, addition or change of use.

40 SECTION 2. Section 10A of chapter 148, as so appearing, is hereby amended by striking  
41 out, in line 15, the term 26F and inserting in place thereof the following:- 26D.

42 SECTION 3. Sections 26E and 26F of chapter 148 of the General Laws are hereby  
43 repealed