

HOUSE No. 1507

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

James M. Murphy

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 regarding the protection of children.

PETITION OF:

NAME:

James M. Murphy

DISTRICT/ADDRESS:

4th Norfolk

HOUSE No. 1507

By Mr. Murphy of Weymouth, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 1507) of James M. Murphy relative to the penalty for failure to report certain injuries to or abuse of children. The Judiciary.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

**In the One Hundred and Eighty-Ninth General Court
(2015-2016)**

An Act regarding the protection of children.

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 265 Section 13M of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2012
2 Official Edition, is hereby amended by inserting the following section:

3 Section 13N. (a) Any parent, legal guardian or caretaker who: (i) has knowledge of child
4 abuse or neglect or an accident that resulted in serious bodily injury to or death of that parent’s
5 child, a child under the guardianship of that legal guardian or a child under the care of that
6 caretaker, respectively, and (ii) fails to report such abuse or neglect to the state police or local
7 police or, in the case of an accident resulting in serious bodily injury, to arrange for medical care
8 by a licensed medical professional within 12 hours of such knowledge shall be punished by a
9 fine of up to \$7,500 or imprisonment in the state prison for not more than 5 years or by both such
10 fine and imprisonment.

11 (b) Any parent, legal guardian or caretaker who: (i) has knowledge that that parent’s
12 child, a child under the guardianship of that legal guardian or a child under the care of that

13 caretaker, respectively, has been missing for more than 24 hours and the child is under the age of
14 13, and (ii) fails to make a report immediately to the state police or local police shall be punished
15 by a fine of up to \$7500 or imprisonment in the state prison for not more than 5 years or by both
16 such fine and imprisonment.

17 (c) Any parent, legal guardian or caretaker who: (i) has knowledge that that parent's
18 child, a child under the guardianship of that legal guardian or a child under the care of that
19 caretaker, respectively, has been missing for more than 24 hours and where the child is under the
20 age of 13 and (ii) fails to make a report immediately to the state police or local police, and the
21 child is found deceased shall be punished by a fine of up to \$7,500 or imprisonment in the state
22 prison for not more than 10 years or by both such fine and imprisonment.