HOUSE DOCKET, NO. 3474 FILED ON: 1/21/2011

HOUSE . . . . . No. 3165

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Bruce J. Ayers

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 establishing an emergency equipment grant program for firefighters.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:
Bruce J. Ayers	*1st Norfolk*

HOUSE DOCKET, NO. 3474 FILED ON: 1/21/2011

HOUSE . . . . . No. 3165

By Mr. Ayers of Quincy, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 3165) of Bruce J. Ayers for legislation to establish an emergency equipment grant program for fire fighters. Public Safety and Homeland Security.

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION
SEE HOUSE, NO. *2193* OF 2009-2010.]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand Eleven

An Act establishing an emergency equipment grant program for firefighters.

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. Chapter 6A of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2004 Official Edition, is hereby amended by inserting after section 18 the following new section:—

Section 18¼. The Executive Office of Public Safety, in consultation with the State Fire Marshal, the Massachusetts Fire Chiefs Association and the Professional Firefighters of Massachusetts AFL-CIO-CLC, shall annually promulgate a listing of fire equipment devices and new technologies that are considered vital to the safety, health and welfare of firefighters responding to fire emergencies and other public safety situations. Said list shall indicate the value of the stated equipment with respect to particular emergency situations and shall further detail the number of pieces of equipment recommended based on size of department and population served.

11 Such list shall be finalized no later than February first of each year and shall include
12 items both vital to maintaining the integrity and effectiveness of department equipment and the
13 personal health and safety of firefighters. This list should focus on minimum needs,
14 recommended apparatus and suggested new technologies that have proven useful in managing
15 and containing fires and protecting the lives of response personnel and victims. Upon
16 completion, the summary list prepared under the provisions of this section shall be forwarded to
17 each local fire chief and the president of the local representative labor organization
18 corresponding with said fire chief's district.

19 All local Fire Chiefs, in conjunction with the appropriate representative labor
20 organization corresponding with said fire chief's district, shall annually audit each department to
21 ascertain whether the department meets the target criteria established in paragraph one of this
22 section. Deficiencies in recommended equipment and the lack of available, suggested
23 technologies in each department shall be reported to the Secretary of the Executive Office of
24 Public Safety and the State Fire Marshal no later than March fifteenth of each year. Said
25 Secretary shall then determine the cost of supplying departments with all equipment necessary to
26 eliminate the deficiencies reported in accordance with this paragraph and shall separately
27 determine the cost of purchasing all suggested equipment local departments have reported as not
28 within their possession. No later than April seventh of each year, said Secretary shall submit the
29 calculation of these costs to the house and senate committees on ways and means and
30 recommend the inclusion of an appropriation within the annual general appropriation act to
31 rectify all deficient conditions at local fire departments and to upgrade departments by providing
32 the latest fire safety equipment.

33 Subject to appropriation, said secretary shall make targeted grants to local fire
34 departments for the purpose of upgrading the response and safety equipment to meet target
35 criteria established in paragraph one of this section. Such grants will be based on need and the
36 principle of maximizing the available appropriation to account for the greatest improvement in
37 public safety; provided that at least fifty percent of any amount so appropriated is earmarked for
38 distribution to fire departments serving populations under 50,000 residents.