

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 3905**

---

By Ms. Garry of Dracut, a petition (subject to Joint Rule 12) of Donald F. Humason, Jr., Colleen M. Garry and others relative to the reporting of a missing child. The Judiciary.

---

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

—————  
In the Year Two Thousand Eleven  
—————

An Act to further protect 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 269 of the General Laws is hereby amended by adding the  
2 following new section:

3 Section 20: A parent, legal guardian or caretaker who willfully fails to contact law  
4 enforcement or emergency personnel concerning the safety of a minor child, 16 years of age or  
5 younger, in his or her care whose whereabouts has not been ascertained within the past 48 hours  
6 shall be punished by imprisonment in state prison for not more than five years.

7 A parent, legal guardian or caretaker of a minor child, 16 years of age or younger, who  
8 has knowledge of the death of said child, and who fails to notify law enforcement or emergency  
9 personnel of said death within one hour of occurrence, shall be punishable by imprisonment in  
10 state prison for not more than five years, or by a fine of not more than ten thousand dollars and  
11 imprisonment in a house of correction for not more than two and one half years.