

HOUSE No. 3978

By Ms. Coakley-Rivera of Springfield, a petition (subject to Joint Rule 12) of Marc Lombardo and others for legislation to establish a penalty for failure to report a missing child. The Judiciary.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand Eleven

An act establishing a penalty for failure to report a missing child.

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 7 of chapter 22A of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2008 Official Edition,
2 is hereby amended by adding the following paragraph:-

3 Any parent, legal guardian or caretaker of a child 12 years of age or younger who is
4 missing shall be required to report the child missing to the appropriate law enforcement
5 authorities within 8 hours, and shall provide said authorities with identifying data related to said
6 missing child. Whoever violates any provision of this paragraph shall be punished by a fine of
7 not more than \$1,000 or by imprisonment in a state prison for not more than 3 years or
8 imprisonment in a jail or house of correction for not more than 2 ½ years, or by such fine and
9 imprisonment.