

SENATE No. 1196

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Katherine M. Clark

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 regionalization of public safety services.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:
<i>Katherine M. Clark</i>	<i>Fifth Middlesex</i>
<i>James J. Dwyer</i>	<i>30th Middlesex</i>
<i>Jason M. Lewis</i>	<i>31st Middlesex</i>
<i>Paul Brodeur</i>	<i>32nd Middlesex</i>
<i>Bradley H. Jones, Jr.</i>	<i>20th Middlesex</i>

SENATE No. 1196

By Ms. Clark, petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 1196) of Katherine M. Clark, James J. Dwyer, Jason M. Lewis, Paul Brodeur and Bradley H. Jones, Jr. for legislation to regionalize public safety services [Joint Committee on Public Safety and Homeland Security].

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand Eleven

An Act relative to the regionalization of public safety services.

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. The Middlesex Sheriff’s Office (hereafter the Sheriff), the city of Melrose
2 and the towns of Reading, Stoneham and Wakefield (hereafter the municipalities) are herewith
3 authorized through their respective mayor or boards of selectmen to enter into a written
4 agreement for the purpose of establishing, constructing, equipping, operating and maintaining a
5 consolidated regional public safety communications center (“Center”). For purposes of this Act,
6 the member communities and the Sheriff shall hereinafter be known as the Middlesex Regional
7 Emergency Communications Council (“MRECC”).

8 SECTION 2. The written agreement shall provide for the management of the Center by a
9 board of directors (“Board”) comprised of the following five (5) positions: one person appointed
10 by each member municipality, with the Sheriff or designee serving ex officio, and representing
11 among them fire services, police services, and a municipal chief administrative officer. Said
12 board shall set forth the financial terms and conditions of membership in and management of the

13 Center. Such Board may employ expert assistance as it deems necessary, but wherever possible
14 shall utilize resources available among its members.

15 SECTION 3. Once established, the Board shall promulgate rules and guidelines
16 governing the terms by which another municipality may be admitted to MRECC, the method by
17 which the agreement may be amended, the procedure for the preparation and adoption of the
18 annual budget, procedure for securing bond funding or direct appropriations for capital needs,
19 the staffing levels and personnel selection for the Center, and any other matters, not incompatible
20 with law.

21 SECTION 4. The board of directors shall establish and manage a fund to which all
22 monies contributed by the towns, and grants and gifts from the federal or state government or
23 any other source shall be deposited. The board of directors may appoint a treasurer who may be
24 a treasurer of one of the member municipalities. The treasurer, subject to the direction and
25 approval of the board of directors shall be authorized to receive, invest and disburse all funds of
26 the Center without further appropriation. The treasurer shall give bond for the faithful
27 performance of his/her duties in a form and amount fixed by the board of directors.

28 SECTION 5. MRECC may apply for, receive and expend, without appropriation, gifts or
29 grant funding from the federal, state or local government as well as private grantors including but
30 not limited to revenues from municipal 911 surcharges in member municipalities.

31 SECTION 6. MRECC shall have the authority to borrow money, and enter into long- or
32 short-term loan agreements or mortgages.

33 SECTION 7. MRECC may enter into contracts for the purchase of supplies, materials
34 and services and for the purchase or lease of land, buildings and equipment as deemed necessary.

35 SECTION 8. MRECC shall be deemed a public employer and have the authority to
36 employ personnel to carry out the purposes of the Center and to establish the duties,
37 compensation and other terms and conditions of employment of personnel.

38 SECTION 9. MRECC shall be deemed a public entity and shall have standing to sue or
39 to be sued to the same extent as a city or town.

40 SECTION 10. The written agreement establishing the Center may make provision for the
41 method of termination of the Center and may also provide procedures for the addition of new
42 member municipalities and the assessment and collection of fees and payments associated
43 therewith, the withdrawal of municipalities and representation of new members on the board of
44 directors.