

**SENATE . . . . . No. 679**

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**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

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PRESENTED BY:

***Katherine M. Clark***

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*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 strangulation..

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PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:
<i>Katherine M. Clark</i>	<i>Fifth Middlesex</i>
<i>Cory Atkins</i>	<i>14th Middlesex</i>
<i>James J. Dwyer</i>	<i>30th Middlesex</i>

**SENATE . . . . . No. 679**

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By Ms. Clark, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 679) of Katherine M. Clark, Cory Atkins and James J. Dwyer for legislation relative to strangulation. The Judiciary.

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**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

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**In the Year Two Thousand Eleven**  
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An Act relative to strangulation..

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:*

1           Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled,  
2 and by the authority of the same, as follows:

3           SECTION 1. Chapter 265 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2008 Official  
4 Edition, is hereby amended by inserting after Section 15C the following section:--

5           Section 15D. (a) For the purposes of this section the following words shall have the  
6 following meanings:

7           "Strangulation" shall mean the intentional interference of the normal breathing or  
8 circulation of blood by applying pressure on the throat or neck of another.

9           "Suffocation" shall mean the intentional interference of the normal breathing or  
10 circulation of blood by blocking the nose or mouth of another.

11 "Serious bodily injury" shall mean bodily injury that results in a permanent  
12 disfigurement, loss or impairment of a bodily function, limb or organ, or a substantial risk of  
13 death.

14 (b) Whoever strangles or suffocates another shall be punished by imprisonment in the  
15 state prison for not more than 5 years or in the house of correction for not more than 2 ½ years,  
16 or by a fine of not more than \$5,000, or by both such fine and imprisonment.

17 (c) Whoever: (i) strangles or suffocates another and by such strangulation or suffocation  
18 causes serious bodily injury; or (ii) strangles or suffocates another who is pregnant at the time of  
19 such strangulation or suffocation, knowing or having reason to know that the person is pregnant;  
20 or (iii) is convicted of strangling or suffocating another after having been previously convicted of  
21 the crime of strangling or suffocating another under this section, or of a like offense in federal  
22 court or the court of any state; or (iv) strangles or suffocates another who he or she knows has an  
23 outstanding temporary or permanent vacate, restraining or no contact order or judgment issued  
24 pursuant to section 18, 34B or 34C of chapter 208 , section 32 of chapter 209, section 3, 4 or 5 of  
25 chapter 209A, section 7 or 10 of chapter 209A½, or section 15 or 20 of chapter 209C, in effect  
26 against him or her at the time the offense was committed, shall be punished by imprisonment in  
27 the state prison for not more than 10 years or in the house of correction for not more than 2½  
28 years, and by a fine of not more than \$10,000.