

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 1186**

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**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 penalties for the filing of false reports against police officers.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	DATE ADDED:
<i>Bruce J. Ayers</i>	<i>1st Norfolk</i>	

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 1186**

By Mr. Ayers of Quincy, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 1186) of Bruce J. Ayers for legislation to establish penalties for the filing of false reports against police officers. The Judiciary.

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION  
SEE HOUSE, NO. 404 OF 2011-2012.]

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

**In the Year Two Thousand Thirteen**

An Act establishing penalties for the filing of false reports against police officers.

*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 268 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2008 Official Edition,  
2 is hereby amended by inserting after section 32B the following new section:—

3 Section 32C. Every person who files any allegation of misconduct against any police  
4 officer, knowing the report to be false, shall be punished by imprisonment in the state prison for  
5 not more than twenty years or by a fine of not more than \$1000 or by imprisonment in jail for not  
6 more than 2 ½ years, or by both such a fine and imprisonment in jail. For the purposes of this  
7 section, “police officer” shall mean an employee of a city, town, county, the Commonwealth or  
8 the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority authorized to make arrest. Any law enforcement  
9 agency accepting an allegation of misconduct against a police officer shall require the  
10 complainant to read and sign the following information advisory, all in bold-face type:

11 **YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO MAKE A COMPLAINT AGAINST A POLICE**  
12 **OFFICER FOR ANY IMPROPER CONDUCT. THIS AGENCY MAY FIND THERE IS NOT**  
13 **ENOUGH EVIDENCE TO SUBSTANTIATE YOUR ALLEGATION AND WARRANT**  
14 **ACTION ON YOUR COMPLAINT: EVEN IF THIS IS THE CASE, YOU HAVE THE RIGHT**  
15 **TO MAKE THE COMPLAINT AND HAVE IT INVESTIGATED IF YOU BELIEVE AN**  
16 **OFFICER BEHAVED IMPROPERLY. PLEASE BE ADVISED THAT IT IS ILLEGAL TO**  
17 **MAKE A COMPLAINT YOU KNOW TO BE FALSE. IF YOU MAKE A COMPLAINT**

18 AGAINST AN OFFICER KNOWING IT IS FALSE, YOU MAY BE PROSECUTED ON A  
19 FELONY CHARGE. I HAVE READ AND UNDERSTOOD THE ABOVE STATEMENT. I  
20 FURTHER REALIZE THIS COMPLAINT IS SIGNED UNDER THE PAINS AND  
21 PENALTIES OF PERJURY.