

HOUSE No. 2148

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Anne M. Gobi, (BY REQUEST)

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 natural gas alarms.

PETITION OF:

NAME:

DISTRICT/ADDRESS:

DATE ADDED:

Tim Parker

HOUSE No. 2148

By Ms. Gobi of Spencer (by request), a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 2148) of Tim Parker relative to natural gas alarms in buildings containing equipment emitting methane or propane. Public Safety and Homeland Security.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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In the Year Two Thousand Thirteen
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An Act relative to natural gas alarms.

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 148 of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after
2 section 26F1/2 the following section

3 Section 26F3/4. (a) Every dwelling, building or structure, including those owned or
4 operated by the commonwealth, occupied in whole or in part for residential purposes, that
5 contains methane or propane emitting equipment including, but not limited to, a furnace, boiler,
6 water heater, fireplace or any other apparatus or device that emits methane or propane shall be
7 equipped by the owner with working, approved natural gas alarm to be placed within proximity
8 to the equipment in conformance with the requirements of the board of fire prevention
9 regulations; provided, however, that such requirements shall include, but not be limited to, a
10 requirement that a landlord or superintendent shall install either approved monitored battery-
11 powered alarms or approved electrical wiring alarms as defined by the board, as are required to
12 make the alarms operational at the beginning of any rental period by lease or otherwise and shall
13 maintain and, if necessary, replace batteries or such battery-operated or electric hardwired
14 natural gas alarms annually thereafter to insure their continued operability.

15 (b) The board of fire prevention regulations shall promulgate such regulations as may be
16 necessary to effectuate this section including, but not limited to, the type, installation, location,
17 maintenance and inspectional requirements of natural gas alarms.

18 (c) Every dwelling, building or structure, occupied in whole or in part for residential
19 purposes, shall, upon sale or transfer of such dwelling, building or structure, be inspected by the
20 head of the fire department for compliance with the requirements of this section.

21 (d) The state building code may impose stricter natural gas alarm requirements for new
22 construction or dwellings, buildings, or structures substantially renovated so as to constitute the
23 equivalent of new construction. Every such dwelling building or structure, occupied in whole or
24 in part for residential purposes, shall, upon sale or transfer of such dwelling, building or
25 structure, be inspected by the head of the fire department for compliance with the natural gas
26 alarm requirements of the state building code in effect on the date of the issuance of the relevant
27 building permit.

28 (e) The head of the fire department shall enforce this section.

29 (f) The department of public health shall promulgate such rules and regulations as may be
30 necessary to effectuate subsection (a) into the state sanitary code as established under section
31 127A of chapter 111.