

SENATE No. 1106

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

James E. Timilty

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 Massachusetts Emergency Information Program.

PETITION OF:

NAME:

DISTRICT/ADDRESS:

James E. Timilty

Bristol and Norfolk

Bruce E. Tarr

First Essex and Middlesex

SENATE No. 1106

By Mr. Timilty, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 1106) of James E. Timilty and Bruce E. Tarr for legislation relative to the Massachusetts Emergency Information Program. Public Health.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand Thirteen

An Act relative to the Massachusetts Emergency Information Program.

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 6A of the General Laws is hereby amended by adding after section
2 18L the following new section:-

3 Section 18M Massachusetts Emergency Information Program

4 (a) As used in this section, the following words shall, unless the context clearly requires
5 otherwise, have the following meanings:—

6 "Disability," an individual's physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or
7 more of the major life activities; a record of such impairment; or when the individual is regarded
8 as having such an impairment.

9 "Major life activities," include, but are not limited to, caring for oneself, performing
10 manual tasks, seeing, hearing, eating, sleeping, walking, standing, lifting, bending, speaking,
11 breathing, learning, reading, concentrating, thinking, communicating, and working.

12 "Special needs individuals," those individuals who have or are at increased risk for a
13 chronic physical, developmental, behavioral, or emotional condition and who also require health
14 and related services of a type or amount beyond that required by individuals generally.

15 "Public safety agency," a functional division of a public agency that provides firefighting,
16 police, medical, emergency management or other emergency services.

17 "Computer aided dispatch" or "CAD," a database maintained by the public safety agency
18 or public safety answering point used in conjunction with 911 caller data.

19 "Emergency Information Program" or "EIP," a supplemental 911 and Emergency
20 Management database to be used in emergency scenarios.

21 "Public Safety Answering Point" or "PSAP," a call center responsible for answering calls
22 to an emergency telephone number for police, firefighting, and ambulance services.

23
24 (b) The EIP shall be a hosted supplemental 911 and Emergency Management database
25 and shall be used by all PSAPs and Emergency Management Agencies within the
26 Commonwealth. This supplemental database should allow for individuals to provide information
27 to be used in emergency scenarios and planning. The EIP service should: (1) Collect a variety of
28 formatted data relevant to 911, Emergency Management, and other Public Safety agencies.
29 Among other items, this information should include photographs of the individual, physical
30 descriptions, medical conditions, allergies, household data, primary language indicator, and
31 emergency contacts (2) allow for information to be entered by individuals via a secure website
32 where they can elect to provide as little or as much information as they choose. (3) Be compliant
33 with all accessibility elements of Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (4) manage the
34 currency of the data through an aging and reminder process, at least twice per year, requesting
35 community members to keep their data up-to-date (5) Automatically display data provided by
36 individuals to 911 call takers for all types of phones (Landline, Mobile, VoIP) when a call is
37 placed to 911 from a registered and confirmed phone number (6) Support the delivery of
38 community member information via a secure internet connection to all PSAPs within
39 Massachusetts (7) service should work across all 9-1-1 call taking equipment in Massachusetts
40 and allow for the easy transfer of information into Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) or Records
41 Management Systems (RMS) (8) provide decision support to Emergency Management through
42 the collection, aggregation, and visualization of community provided information via a hosted,
43 web-based, geospatial interface (9) allow EIP data to be made available at a city, county, state, or
44 national level to help protect Massachusetts community members wherever they are with similar
45 EIP databases already established within the United States (10) allow local communities the
46 ability to tailor data collected based on their unique regional requirements (11) make data
47 available to first responders (12) be designed to work in today's environment or future NG9-1-1
48 systems.

49 (c) Public safety and Emergency Management agencies shall make reasonable efforts to
50 publicize the Emergency Information Program (EIP). Means of publicizing the database may
51 include, but are not limited to, pamphlets, social media, neighborhood watch programs,
52 community policing programs, television, municipal notification systems and websites.

53 (d) When special needs information is made available with the 911 call, the
54 telecommunicator shall, where appropriate, relay that information to responding personnel.

55 (e) The information gathered as part of EIP shall remain strictly confidential. The
56 information shall be used only to provide assistance to 911 telecommunicators, first responders,
57 and Emergency Management personnel. No public safety worker shall knowingly violate this
58 confidentiality clause.

59 (f) Citizens electing to participate in EIP must be advised that the provision of special
60 needs information will not result in preferential treatment.

61 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon its passage.