HOUSE DOCKET, NO. 3172 FILED ON: 1/16/2015

HOUSE . . . . . No. 2137

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Paul R. Heroux

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 to establish a pilot grant program using 'Emotional CPR' to decrease hostilities between police and citizens.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:
Paul R. Heroux	*2nd Bristol*
Ruth B. Balser	*12th Middlesex*
Diana DiZoglio	*14th Essex*
Kay Khan	*11th Middlesex*
Benjamin Swan	*11th Hampden*

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By Mr. Heroux of Attleboro, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 2137) of Paul R. Heroux and others for legislation to establish a pilot program to reduce the traumatic consequences of interactions between police and vulnerable individuals. Public Safety and Homeland Security.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the One Hundred and Eighty-Ninth General Court
(2015-2016)

An Act to establish a pilot grant program using 'Emotional CPR' to decrease hostilities between police and citizens.

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

Emotional CPR is a program designed to reduce the traumatic consequences of interactions between police and vulnerable individuals, leading to a reduction in injury to both officers and the community members. Given the current national focus on aggressive interactions between police officers and possible offenders, Emotional CPR training is a timely preventative technique to help minimize the occurrence of such unnecessary and unfortunate encounters. Participants have shared later that the training helps them to communicate with greater emotional understanding in all realms of their life, in addition to assisting persons in acute distress. This training is for prevention and is a public health education approach, because it can be used to help anyone, regardless of whether they have a diagnosable mental health condition.

11 Section one: The Executive Office of Public Safety (EOPSS) shall create a pilot program
12 to administer grants to municipal police departments to train police officers to connect with any
13 member of the community in acute emotional distress in a non-threatening and supportive
14 manner.

15

16 Section two: Grant award winners shall be provided with funds to train 16 participants
17 with 2 trainers over a 14-hour period. The training is very practical and teaches the skills of
18 connecting, empowering, and revitalizing mostly through role-plays with feedback and dialogue.

19

20 Section three: Criteria for an evaluation of the pilot program will take place pre-and post
21 training in order to (1) track the efficacy of the training materials, (2) to measure subsequent
22 usage of the material in the workplace. The University of Massachusetts Medical School in
23 collaboration with EOPSS will support the development and distribution of this research along
24 with NEC staff.

25 Section four: The results of the pilot program shall be provided to the Legislature and
26 EOPSS and made available to the public.