

# **HOUSE . . . . . No. 4115**

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## The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, March 23, 2016.

The committee on Municipalities and Regional Government to whom was referred the petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 1825) of Bruce J. Ayers and others relative to holding property owners accountable for recurring municipal public nuisance complaints, reports recommending that the accompanying bill (House, No. 4115) ought to pass.

For the committee,

JAMES J. O'DAY.

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**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

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**In the One Hundred and Eighty-Ninth General Court  
(2015-2016)**  
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An Act to hold property owners accountable for recurring public nuisance.

*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 139 of the General Laws is hereby amended by adding the  
2 following section:-

3           Section 21. (a) If within any 12 month period a municipal police department is dispatched  
4 or caused to respond to more than 10 incidents at a particular property or location involving  
5 crime resulting in an arrest, citation, application for a criminal complaint or indictment against a  
6 person or property, including but not limited to disturbing the peace, trespassing, underage  
7 drinking, assault, dumping or similar violations of the municipal code or state law, the property  
8 owner of record shall be held responsible for the reasonable costs directly associated with any  
9 additional police calls and other costs incurred by the police department and/or municipality  
10 associated with responding to the same property or location.

11           (b) The owner of record of the particular property or location, who has been billed for the  
12 costs of additional police response to said property or location, shall pay to the municipal

13 treasurer or collector all amounts so billed within 30 days of the date of such bill prepared and  
14 tendered by the municipal treasurer or collector.

15 (c) Any funds collected from property owners pursuant to this section shall be deposited  
16 into the general fund of the municipality to offset the costs incurred by the police department.

17 (d) Enforcement of this legislation is at the discretion of the Chief of Police or other local  
18 authority of the city or town where the property is located. The city or town may adopt  
19 reasonable ordinances or bylaws in order to implement the provisions of this section.

20 (e) Any bills generated under the provisions of this section, if unpaid by the due date,  
21 shall be considered an unpaid municipal charge subject to section 58 of chapter 40.