

SENATE No. 1279

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Jason M. Lewis

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 regionalization of public safety services.

PETITION OF:

NAME:

Jason M. Lewis

DISTRICT/ADDRESS:

Fifth Middlesex

SENATE No. 1279

By Mr. Lewis, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 1279) of Jason M. Lewis for legislation relative to the regionalization of public safety services. Public Safety and Homeland Security.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

An Act relative to the regionalization of public safety services.

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 Massachusetts General Laws, as appearing in the 2014
2 Official Edition, is hereby amended by inserting after Section 18L the following new section:-

3 Section 18M. Regional Public Safety Services

4 Any Sheriff’s Office and city or town are herewith authorized through their respective
5 mayor or boards of selectmen to enter into a written agreement for the purpose of establishing,
6 constructing, equipping, operating and maintaining a consolidated regional public safety
7 communications center. For purposes of this Act, the member communities and the Sheriff shall
8 hereinafter be known as a Regional Emergency Communications Council (“RECC”).

9 The written agreement shall provide for the management of a regional public safety
10 communications center by a board of directors (“Board”) comprised of the following positions:
11 one person appointed by each member municipality, with the Sheriff or designee serving ex
12 officio, and representing among them fire services, police services, and a municipal chief

13 administrative officer. Said board shall set forth the financial terms and conditions of
14 membership in and management of the regional public safety communications center. Such
15 Board may employ expert assistance as it deems necessary, but wherever possible shall utilize
16 resources available among its members.

17 Once established, the Board shall promulgate rules and guidelines governing the terms by
18 which another municipality may be admitted to an RECC, the method by which the agreement
19 may be amended, the procedure for the preparation and adoption of the annual budget, procedure
20 for securing bond funding or direct appropriations for capital needs, the staffing levels and
21 personnel selection for the regional public safety communications center, and any other matters,
22 not incompatible with law.

23 The Board shall establish and manage a fund to which all monies contributed by the cities
24 and towns, and grants and gifts from the federal or state government or any other source shall be
25 deposited. The Board may appoint a treasurer who may be a treasurer of one of the member
26 municipalities. The treasurer, subject to the direction and approval of the Board shall be
27 authorized to receive, invest and disburse all funds of the regional public safety communications
28 center without further appropriation. The treasurer shall give bond for the faithful performance of
29 his/her duties in a form and amount fixed by the Board.

30 An RECC may apply for, receive and expend, without appropriation, gifts or grant
31 funding from the federal, state or local government as well as private grantors including but not
32 limited to revenues from municipal 911 surcharges in member municipalities.

33 An RECC shall have the authority to borrow money, and enter into long- or short-term
34 loan agreements or mortgages.

35 An RECC may enter into contracts for the purchase of supplies, materials and services
36 and for the purchase or lease of land, buildings and equipment as deemed necessary.

37 An RECC shall be deemed a public employer and have the authority to employ personnel
38 to carry out the purposes of the regional public safety communications center and to establish the
39 duties, compensation and other terms and conditions of employment of personnel.

40 An RECC shall be deemed a public entity and shall have standing to sue or to be sued to
41 the same extent as a city or town.

42 The written agreement establishing a regional public safety communications center may
43 make a provision for the method of termination of the regional public safety communications
44 center and may also provide procedures for the addition of new member municipalities and the
45 assessment and collection of fees and payments associated therewith, the withdrawal of
46 municipalities and representation of new members on the board of directors.