

HOUSE No. 2481

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Ruth B. Balsler and Paul J. Donato

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 enhanced fire protection in new one and two family dwellings.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	DATE ADDED:
<i>Ruth B. Balsler</i>	<i>12th Middlesex</i>	<i>1/19/2017</i>
<i>Paul J. Donato</i>	<i>35th Middlesex</i>	<i>2/1/2017</i>
<i>Aaron Vega</i>	<i>5th Hampden</i>	
<i>William N. Brownsberger</i>	<i>Second Suffolk and Middlesex</i>	
<i>James J. Dwyer</i>	<i>30th Middlesex</i>	
<i>Jonathan Hecht</i>	<i>29th Middlesex</i>	
<i>Shawn Dooley</i>	<i>9th Norfolk</i>	
<i>Chris Walsh</i>	<i>6th Middlesex</i>	
<i>Colleen M. Garry</i>	<i>36th Middlesex</i>	
<i>Angelo J. Puppolo, Jr.</i>	<i>12th Hampden</i>	
<i>Harold P. Naughton, Jr.</i>	<i>12th Worcester</i>	
<i>Jennifer L. Flanagan</i>	<i>Worcester and Middlesex</i>	
<i>David M. Rogers</i>	<i>24th Middlesex</i>	
<i>Thomas J. Calter</i>	<i>12th Plymouth</i>	

HOUSE No. 2481

By Representatives Balser of Newton and Donato of Medford, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 2481) of Ruth B. Balser, Paul J. Donato and others for legislation to authorize municipalities to require automatic sprinkler protection systems in certain housing. Public Safety and Homeland Security.

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION
SEE HOUSE, NO. 2089 OF 2015-2016.]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

**In the One Hundred and Ninetieth General Court
(2017-2018)**

An Act relative to enhanced fire protection in new one and two family dwellings.

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, as appearing in the 2012 “Official
2 Edition”, is hereby amended by adding the following new section:-

3 Section 26J. In any city or town which accepts the provisions of this section, every
4 newly constructed building, designed or used for residential occupancy and containing not more
5 than two dwelling units, shall be protected throughout with an adequate system of automatic
6 sprinklers installed in accordance with the provisions of the state building code. The provisions
7 of this section shall apply to any such newly constructed building for which a building permit is
8 issued on or after one year from the acceptance of this act by a city or town.

9 The head of the fire department shall enforce the provisions of this section.

10 Whoever is aggrieved by the head of the fire department's interpretation, order,
11 requirement, direction or failure to act under the provisions of this section, may, within forty-five
12 days after the service of notice thereof, appeal from such interpretation, order, requirement,
13 direction, or failure to act, to the board of appeals as provided in section 201 of chapter six.

14 SECTION 2. Section 27A of chapter 148, as so appearing, is amended by inserting, after
15 the word "service", in lines 17 and 18, the following new sentence:- This section shall not apply
16 to the seasonal shut-off of automatic sprinklers installed in accordance with the provisions of
17 section 26J of chapter 148, when such shut off has been conducted in accordance with the
18 procedures established by the Board of Fire Prevention Regulations. For purposes of this
19 section, the Board shall determine what constitutes a seasonal shutoff of automatic sprinklers.