

**SENATE . . . . . No. 966**

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**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

PRESENTED BY:

***Bruce E. Tarr***

*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 soliciting acts of terrorism.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	
<i>Bruce E. Tarr</i>	<i>First Essex and Middlesex</i>	
<i>David F. DeCoste</i>	<i>5th Plymouth</i>	<i>1/27/2017</i>
<i>Richard J. Ross</i>	<i>Norfolk, Bristol and Middlesex</i>	<i>2/28/2017</i>

**SENATE . . . . . No. 966**

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By Mr. Tarr, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 966) of Bruce E. Tarr and David F. DeCoste for legislation relative to soliciting acts of terrorism. The Judiciary.

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**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

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

An Act relative to soliciting acts of terrorism.

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

1 Chapter 269 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2014 Official Edition, is hereby  
2 amended by inserting after section 14 the following new section: -

3 SECTION 14 ½

4 (a) As used in this section, the term “solicits” shall mean to lure, induce, persuade, tempt,  
5 incite, coax, invite, counsel, advise, request or command.

6 The term "critical infrastructure" shall mean critical public or private infrastructure  
7 resource systems involved in providing services necessary to ensure or protect the public health,  
8 safety and welfare, including, but not limited to, a public water system or a public water source;  
9 an emergency, governmental, medical, fire or law enforcement response system; a public utility  
10 system; a financial system; an educational system; or a food or clothing distribution system.

11 (b) Whoever solicits or otherwise entices or communicates or causes to be communicated  
12 or published, either directly or indirectly, orally, in writing, by mail, by use of a telephone or

13 telecommunication device including, but not limited to, electronic mail, internet  
14 communications, and facsimile communications, through an electronic communication device or  
15 by any other means, the commission of a crime that involves acts dangerous to (i) human life; (ii)  
16 property; or (iii) critical infrastructure, shall be punished as follows:

17           For acts dangerous to human life, by imprisonment for not more than 20 years in the state  
18 prison or for not more than 2½ half years in a jail or house of correction, or by a fine of not more  
19 than \$20,000, or by both such fine and imprisonment.

20           For acts dangerous to property or critical infrastructure, by imprisonment for not more  
21 than 10 years in the state prison or for not more than 2½ years in a jail or house of correction, or  
22 by a fine of not more than \$10,000, or by both such fine and imprisonment.

23           If a person is convicted of a crime of solicitation, counsel, advice or enticement for which  
24 crime the penalty is expressly set forth in any other section of the General Laws, the provisions  
25 of this section shall not apply to said crime and the penalty therefor shall be imposed pursuant to  
26 the provisions of such other section.

27           Any person who is found guilty of solicitation, counsel, advice or enticement which  
28 results in the loss of human life shall be punished by imprisonment in the state prison for life and  
29 shall be eligible for parole after the term of years fixed by the court pursuant to section 24 of  
30 chapter 279.

31           (c) Notwithstanding any other law, an indictment may be found at any time without  
32 limitation for any violation of this section, if the commission of such offense resulted in, or  
33 created a foreseeable risk of, death or serious bodily injury to another person; damage to  
34 property; or infrastructure.

35 (d) The court shall, after conviction, conduct a hearing to ascertain the extent of costs  
36 incurred, damages and financial loss suffered by an individual, public or private entity and the  
37 amount of property damage caused as a result of the defendant's crime. A person found guilty of  
38 violating this section shall, in all cases, in addition to any other punishment, be ordered to make  
39 restitution to the individual, public or private entity for any costs incurred, damages and financial  
40 loss sustained as a result of the commission of the crime. Restitution shall be imposed in addition  
41 to incarceration or fine, and not in lieu thereof, however, the court shall consider the defendant's  
42 present and future ability to pay in its determinations regarding a fine. In determining the  
43 amount, time and method of payment of restitution, the court shall consider the financial  
44 resources of the defendant and the burden restitution will impose on the defendant.

45 (e) The attorney general of the commonwealth is hereby authorized and directed to  
46 undertake a review and examination of any and all sections and provisions of the general laws  
47 relative to acts of terrorism and acts construed as terrorism. Such review and examination shall  
48 include but not be limited to: 1) an analysis of the efficacy and suitability of such existing  
49 measures to characterize, punish and enable just prosecution of acts of terrorism particularly in  
50 light of changes in technology, circumstances, and information obtained by analyzing the  
51 methods and strategies employed in terrorist threats and or acts over the past 10 years, 2) an  
52 appraisal of the efficacy and suitability of such existing measures, including sanctions and  
53 punishments, to deter such acts of terrorism, 3) an identification and cost estimate of any  
54 additional resources necessary to protect public safety from terrorist acts or threats thereof, and  
55 4) recommendations, if necessary, for statutory or regulatory changes to address terrorist threats  
56 or acts so as to protect public safety. A report containing the results of said review and  
57 examination, together with any legislative and regulatory recommendations, shall be filed with

58 the clerks of the house and senate and the joint committee on public safety and homeland  
59 security, not later than May 1, 2017.