

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

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**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

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PRESENTED BY:

***Harriette L. Chandler***

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*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 requiring the establishment of recycling programs for ionization smoke detectors.

\_\_\_\_\_

PETITION OF:

NAME:

*Harriette L. Chandler*

DISTRICT/ADDRESS:

*First Worcester*

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

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[Pin Slip]

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[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION  
SEE SENATE, NO. 436 OF 2019-2020.]

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**In the One Hundred and Ninety-Second General Court  
(2021-2022)**  
\_\_\_\_\_

An Act requiring the establishment of recycling programs for ionization smoke detectors.

*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 21H of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2018 Official  
2 Edition, is hereby amended by inserting after section 6N the following section:-

3           Section 6O. (a) As used in this section, the following words shall have the following  
4 meanings unless the context clearly requires otherwise:

5           “Contractor”, a person engaged in the business of installation, service or removal of  
6 heating, ventilation and air-conditioning components.

7           “Department”, the department of environmental protection.

8           “Local government authority”, a household hazardous waste facility, a solid waste  
9 management agency, an environmental management agency or a department of public health.

10           “Manufacturer”, an organization or entity that sells or sold a ionization smoke detector  
11 under a brand or label it owns or is or was licensed to use a brand or label for a ionization smoke  
12 detector produced by other suppliers.

13           "Ionization smoke detector," a smoke detecting alarm device that contains a radioactive  
14 material pursuant to a license from the United States nuclear regulatory commission.

15           “Person”, an individual, trust, firm, joint stock company, corporation, including a  
16 government corporation, partnership, association, the federal government or any agency or  
17 subdivision thereof, a state, municipality, commission, political subdivision of a state or any  
18 interstate body.

19           “Smoke detector retailer”, a person that sells smoke detectors of any kind directly to  
20 homeowners, other non-professionals or contractors through any selling or distribution  
21 mechanism, including, but not limited to, sales using the internet or catalogs.

22           “Smoke detector wholesaler”, a person engaged in the distribution and wholesale sale of  
23 smoke detectors and other heating, ventilation and air-conditioning components to contractors  
24 who install heating, ventilation and air-conditioning components.

25           (b)(1) A smoke detector wholesaler shall not offer for final sale, sell at final sale or  
26 distribute any smoke detector unless that smoke detector wholesaler acts as a collection site for  
27 ionization smoke detectors.

28           (2) A smoke detector wholesaler shall meet the requirements of this section by  
29 participating as a collection site in a collection program established pursuant to subsection (d), or

30 by collecting ionization smoke detectors and managing the collected ionization smoke detectors  
31 in accordance with applicable federal and state laws governing the disposal of universal waste.

32 (3) A smoke detector wholesaler or smoke detector retailer acting as a collection site shall  
33 provide visible signage identifying the location as a collection location for waste ionization  
34 smoke detectors.

35 (4) A smoke detector wholesaler or smoke detector retailer shall not offer for final sale,  
36 sell at a final sale or distribute any smoke detector of a manufacturer that is not in compliance  
37 with this section.

38 (c)(1) Except as otherwise provided in this section, no person shall dispose of a ionization  
39 smoke detector in a manner other than by recycling or disposal as hazardous waste.

40 (2) A contractor who removes an ionization smoke detector from a building shall deliver  
41 that smoke detector to a collection site established under subsection (d) for recycling.

42 (3) A person who demolishes a building shall remove any ionization smoke detector from  
43 the building prior to demolition and shall deliver any removed smoke detector to a collection site  
44 established under subsection (d) for recycling or by collecting ionization smoke detectors and  
45 managing the collected ionization smoke detectors in accordance with applicable federal and  
46 state laws governing the disposal of universal waste.

47 (4) A person who removes a ionization smoke detector from a location that is  
48 participating in an energy efficiency or weatherization program supported or administered in  
49 whole or in part by a department, agency, authority or political subdivision of the commonwealth  
50 or conducted as a result of any statutory requirement, including, but not limited to, demand-side

51 management or least-cost procurement, shall deliver that smoke detector to a collection site  
52 established under subsection (d) for recycling.

53 (5) No municipal or private solid waste hauler or operator of a solid waste disposal  
54 facility shall knowingly dispose, or allow to be disposed, an ionization smoke detector as solid  
55 waste unless the radioactive material has been first removed by recycling or disposed as  
56 hazardous waste. A solid waste facility may knowingly accept or collect ionization smoke  
57 detectors for proper disposal if the device is segregated from solid waste and stored in an  
58 identified recycling container; provided, that the facility participates in a manufacturer's program  
59 as a collection site or has established a collection site to collect, manage and dispose of  
60 ionization smoke detectors as hazardous waste in accordance with applicable federal and state  
61 waste disposal laws and regulations. No operator of a solid waste disposal facility shall be found  
62 to be in violation of this section if the operator: (i) makes a good-faith and consistent effort to  
63 comply with this section; (ii) posts, in a conspicuous location at the facility, a sign stating that  
64 ionization smoke detectors are not accepted at the facility; and (iii) notifies, in writing, any  
65 person authorized to deposit solid waste at the facility that ionization smoke detectors are not  
66 accepted at the facility.

67 (d) Each smoke detector manufacturer that has distributed, offered for final sale or sold at  
68 final sale any ionization smoke detector within the commonwealth shall, individually or  
69 collectively:

70 (i) make collection containers available to each smoke detector wholesaler, smoke  
71 detector retailer, and local government authority within the commonwealth that requests a  
72 container, ensuring that those containers are accompanied by information regarding the proper

73 management of ionization smoke detectors as universal waste, in accordance with the collection  
74 program and the department's rules and regulations;

75 (ii) establish a system to collect, transport and properly manage, which may include, but  
76 shall not be limited to, recycling, out-of-service ionization smoke detectors from all collection  
77 sites established under this section; and

78 (iii) collect no fees or other charges for participation in the program, except that each  
79 smoke detector wholesaler, smoke detector retailer, and local government authority that is  
80 provided with 1 or more collection containers may be charged a 1-time program administration  
81 fee not to exceed \$25 per collection container.

82 (e) On or before March 1, each smoke detector manufacturer that has distributed, offered  
83 for final sale or sold at final sale any ionization smoke detector within the commonwealth shall,  
84 individually or collectively, submit an annual report to the department that shall include, but not  
85 be limited to, the following information:

86 (i) the number of ionization smoke detectors collected and recycled by the manufacturer  
87 under this section during the previous calendar year;

88 (ii) the estimated total amount of radioactive material contained in the smoke detector  
89 components collected by the manufacturer under this section in the previous calendar year;

90 (iii) an evaluation of the effectiveness of the manufacturer's collection program;

91 (iv) an accounting of the administrative costs incurred in the course of administering the  
92 collection and recycling program; and

93 (v) a list of all locations to which collection containers have been provided, including any  
94 locations which received containers during the year, and the date on which each location  
95 received a collection container.

96 (f) The department shall maintain and post on its website a list of all locations that are  
97 collection points for ionization smoke detectors.

98 In conjunction with any education and outreach programs implemented by  
99 manufacturers, the department may conduct an education and outreach program directed toward  
100 smoke detector wholesalers, smoke detector retailers, contractors and homeowners to promote  
101 the collection of out-of-service ionization smoke detectors.

102 (g) The department shall collect and maintain data on the collection and recycling  
103 programs established in subsection (d), including the number of ionization smoke detectors  
104 collected and recycled and the number of wholesalers, retailers, and local government authorities  
105 participating in the program. On or before September 30 of each year, the department shall  
106 prepare an annual report detailing the data collected under this subsection during the prior  
107 calendar year and shall file copies of those reports with the clerks of the senate and house of  
108 representatives and the co-chairs of the joint committee on environment, natural resources and  
109 agriculture.

110 SECTION 2. From January 1, 2020 through December 31, 2027, each smoke detector  
111 manufacturer that has distributed, offered for final sale or sold at final sale any ionization smoke  
112 detector within the commonwealth shall, individually or collectively conduct education and  
113 outreach efforts including, but not limited to: (i) promoting the availability of collection  
114 containers to smoke detector wholesalers, smoke detector retailers, and units of local government

115 in the commonwealth; (ii) educating contractors, homeowners and other interested persons of the  
116 importance of properly managing out-of-service ionization smoke detectors and opportunities for  
117 the collection of those smoke detectors and the availability of manufacturer supported programs;  
118 (iii) providing signage to participating collection locations that can be prominently displayed to  
119 promote the collection and recycling of out-of-service ionization smoke detectors; and (iv)  
120 providing written materials or templates of written materials for reproduction by participating  
121 smoke detector wholesalers and smoke detector retailers to be provided to customers at the time  
122 of purchase or delivery of a smoke detector. These materials shall include, but not be limited to,  
123 information on the importance of properly managing out-of-service ionization smoke detectors  
124 and opportunities for the collection of those smoke detectors. Each annual report required by  
125 subsection (e) of Section 6O of chapter 21H of the General Laws shall include a description of  
126 the education and outreach efforts conducted under this section.

127 SECTION 3. Upon the completion of the first calendar year of the collection and  
128 recycling program established by Section 6O of chapter 21H of the General Laws, the  
129 department of environmental protection shall conduct an assessment and evaluation of that  
130 program, including the number of smoke detectors collected and proposed measures to increase  
131 that number in future years. The department of environmental protection shall, on or before  
132 December 31, 2021, file a report of its findings, including any recommendations of legislation,  
133 with the clerks of the senate and house of representatives and the co-chairs of the joint committee  
134 on environment, natural resources and agriculture.

135 SECTION 4. Subsections (e) and (g) of section Section 6O of chapter 21H of the General  
136 Laws, inserted by section 1, shall take effect on January 1, 2021.



137           SECTION 5. Subsection (f) of Section 6O of chapter 21H of the General Laws, as so  
138 inserted, shall take effect on July 1, 2021.