

HOUSE No. 4155

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Jeffrey Rosario Turco

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 to allow temporary door-locking devices in public buildings.

PETITION OF:

| NAME: | DISTRICT/ADDRESS: | DATE ADDED: |
|------------------------------|-----------------------|------------------|
| <i>Jeffrey Rosario Turco</i> | <i>19th Suffolk</i> | <i>8/1/2023</i> |
| <i>Steven George Xiarhos</i> | <i>5th Barnstable</i> | <i>9/29/2023</i> |
| <i>Marcus S. Vaughn</i> | <i>9th Norfolk</i> | <i>1/5/2024</i> |
| <i>Adam Scanlon</i> | <i>14th Bristol</i> | <i>1/5/2024</i> |
| <i>Priscila S. Sousa</i> | <i>6th Middlesex</i> | <i>2/7/2024</i> |

HOUSE No. 4155

By Representative Turco of Winthrop, a petition (subject to Joint Rule 12) of Jeffrey Rosario Turco for legislation to allow temporary door-locking devices in public buildings and schools. Public Safety and Homeland Security.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

**In the One Hundred and Ninety-Third General Court
(2023-2024)**

An Act to allow temporary door-locking devices in public buildings.

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 143 of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting at the end thereof the
2 following new section:-

3 Section 101. Temporary Door Locking Devices

4 Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary the executive office of public
5 safety and security shall promulgate regulations to allow the use of temporary door locking
6 devices for use in public buildings, and in consultation with the executive office of education and
7 the Massachusetts school building authority, shall establish regulations regarding the use of
8 temporary locking devices in school buildings. These regulations shall include, but not be limited
9 to (1) circumstances under which temporary door locking devices may be used; (2) appropriate
10 locations for temporary door locking devices and ensuring consistent operation throughout a
11 building; (3) a local approval process, including consultation with the fire department and law
12 enforcement agency with jurisdiction over the building; (4) integration of such devices into

13 building safety plans and training programs; (5) in-service training on the use of the device by
14 first responders and public employees; and (6) standards for annual inspections to ensure proper
15 use and operation. Temporary door locking devices, as defined in this section, shall not be
16 proscribed by any ordinance that prohibits a building from installing a barricade device.

17 For the purposes of this section, temporary door locking device shall mean, a device that
18 prevents a door from opening, provided that the device (1) can be engaged or removed without
19 opening the door; (2) can be engaged and removed from the egress side of the door without the
20 use of a key, special knowledge or effort and removed from the ingress side of the door by
21 appropriate personnel with the use of a key or other credential; (3) does not modify the door
22 closer, panic hardware, or fire exit hardware; (4) is not permanently mounted to the door,
23 although individual parts of the device assembly, including bolts, stops, brackets, and pins that
24 do not prevent normal function of the door may be permanently mounted; (5) does not affect the
25 fire rating of the door and complies with National Fire Protection Association fire rating
26 standards; and (6) can be removed with a single operation once engaged, unless the building is
27 equipped throughout with an automatic sprinkler system, in which case two operations may be
28 permitted.