

HOUSE No. 1226

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Evandro C. Carvalho

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 communication with victims of violent crime.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:
<i>Evandro C. Carvalho</i>	<i>5th Suffolk</i>
<i>Marjorie C. Decker</i>	<i>25th Middlesex</i>
<i>Marcos A. Devers</i>	<i>16th Essex</i>
<i>Michelle M. DuBois</i>	<i>10th Plymouth</i>
<i>James J. Dwyer</i>	<i>30th Middlesex</i>
<i>Gloria L. Fox</i>	<i>7th Suffolk</i>
<i>Kenneth I. Gordon</i>	<i>21st Middlesex</i>
<i>Shaunna L. O'Connell</i>	<i>3rd Bristol</i>
<i>Benjamin Swan</i>	<i>11th Hampden</i>

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By Mr. Carvalho of [SPONSOR CITY], a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 1226) of Evandro C. Carvalho and others for an investigation by a special commission (including members of the General Court) of the services and communications received by victims of violent crimes. The Judiciary.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

An Act relative to communication with victims of violent crime.

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. There shall be a special commission established pursuant to section 2A of
2 chapter 4 of the General Laws to investigate and study the most effective protocols for
3 communication between municipal police departments, district attorneys’ offices, the Trial
4 Court, and victims of violent crimes and their families. The commission shall develop
5 Massachusetts Victims Assistance Recommendations, which shall include legislative
6 recommendations and other policy recommendations for municipal police departments and
7 district attorneys. The commission shall review and assess the methods of communication at
8 each stage of a case, including but not limited to: 1) initial contact with victims or family, 2)
9 during on-going investigation, 3) during any criminal proceedings related to the case, 4) during
10 any cold case investigation, 5) during the incarceration of an offender, and 6) after an offender
11 has been released.

12 The commission shall consist of: 2 members of the senate, 1 of whom shall serve as co-
13 chair; 2 members of the house of representatives, 1 of whom shall serve as co-chair; the
14 executive director of the Massachusetts office of victims assistance or a designee; the
15 commissioner of probation or a designee; the commissioner of the department of Criminal
16 Justice Information Services or a designee; the secretary of public safety and security or a
17 designee; the attorney general or a designee; and 6 persons to be appointed by the governor, 3 of
18 whom shall represent local or state police departments in Massachusetts, 1 of whom shall have
19 experience in the application or administration of trauma response services, 1 of whom shall be a
20 representative of the Massachusetts District Attorneys Association, and 1 of whom shall be a
21 representative of the committee for public counsel services. The commission shall convene not
22 later than 60 days after the effective date of this act.

23 The commission shall submit a report, detailing the results of its investigation and study,
24 any recommended legislative or regulatory action and a timeline for implementation to the
25 governor and the clerks of the house and the senate not later than 180 days after the effective
26 date of this act. The clerks of the house and the senate shall forward the report to the speaker of
27 the house of representatives and the president of the senate.