

HOUSE No. 02216

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Bradley H. Jones, Jr.

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 passage of the accompanying bill:

An Act relative to fetal homicide.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:
<i>Bradley H. Jones, Jr.</i>	<i>20th Middlesex</i>
<i>Marc Lombardo</i>	<i>22nd Middlesex</i>
<i>Donald F. Humason, Jr.</i>	<i>4th Hampden</i>
<i>F. Jay Barrows</i>	<i>1st Bristol</i>
<i>George Ross</i>	<i>2nd Bristol</i>
<i>Todd M. Smola</i>	<i>1st Hampden</i>
<i>Kevin Kuros</i>	<i>8th Worcester</i>
<i>Sheila Harrington</i>	<i>1st Middlesex</i>
<i>Steven L. Levy</i>	<i>4th Middlesex</i>
<i>Paul K. Frost</i>	<i>7th Worcester</i>
<i>George N. Peterson, Jr.</i>	<i>9th Worcester</i>
<i>Elizabeth Poirier</i>	<i>14th Bristol</i>
<i>Viriato Manuel deMacedo</i>	<i>1st Plymouth</i>

HOUSE No. 02216

By Mr. Jones of North Reading, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 2216) of Frost and others relative to the penalties for the crime of fetal homicide Joint Committee on the Judiciary.

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION
SEE
□ HOUSE
□ , NO. 1443 OF 2009-2010.]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand Eleven

An Act relative to fetal homicide.

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 265 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2008 Official Edition, is
- 2 hereby amended by adding the following section:--
- 3 Section 13M. (a) For the purposes of this section, the following words shall, unless the context
- 4 indicates otherwise, have the following meanings:—
- 5 “Bodily injury”, substantial impairment of the physical condition including any burn, fracture of
- 6 any bone, subdural hematoma, injury to any internal organ, any injury which occurs as the result
- 7 of repeated harm to any bodily function or organ including human skin or any physical condition
- 8 which substantially imperils a child’s health or welfare.

9 “Child in utero”, a member of the species homo sapiens, at any stage of development, who is
10 carried in the womb.

11 (b) Whoever engages in conduct that violates any of the provisions of law listed in chapter 265
12 of the General Laws which results in the death of, or bodily injury to, a child in utero when the
13 conduct occurs, is guilty of a separate offense under this section.

14 (c) (1) Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, the punishment for that separate offense
15 is the same as the punishment provided under the General Laws for that conduct had the injury
16 or death occurred to the unborn child’s mother.

17 (2) An offense under this section does not require proof that-
18 the person engaging in the conduct had knowledge or should have had knowledge that the victim
19 of the underlying offense was pregnant; or
20 the defendant intended to cause the death of, or bodily injury to, the unborn child

21 (d) Nothing in this section shall be construed to permit the prosecution-
22 of any person for conduct relating to an abortion for which the consent of the pregnant woman,
23 or a person authorized by law to act on her behalf, has been obtained or for which such consent is
24 required by law;
25 of any person for any medical treatment of the pregnant woman or her unborn child; or
26 of any woman with respect to her unborn child.