

HOUSE No. 2441

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Marjorie C. Decker

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 enhancing the safety of high-rise buildings.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	DATE ADDED:
<i>Marjorie C. Decker</i>	<i>25th Middlesex</i>	<i>2/18/2021</i>
<i>Brian W. Murray</i>	<i>10th Worcester</i>	<i>2/23/2021</i>
<i>Lindsay N. Sabadosa</i>	<i>1st Hampshire</i>	<i>2/24/2021</i>
<i>Marcos A. Devers</i>	<i>16th Essex</i>	<i>3/8/2021</i>

HOUSE No. 2441

By Ms. Decker of Cambridge, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 2441) of Marjorie C. Decker and others relative to automatic sprinklers in certain older high rise buildings. Public Safety and Homeland Security.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

An Act enhancing the safety of high-rise 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 SECTION 1. Section 26A ½ of Chapter 148 of the General Laws as appearing in the
2 2018 Official Edition is hereby amended by deleting the following phrase from the first
3 paragraph of said Section 26A ½: “provided, further, that sprinklers shall not be required to be
4 installed in buildings where construction has commenced prior to January first, nineteen hundred
5 and seventy-five and which have been submitted to the provisions of chapter one hundred and
6 eighty-three A;” and replacing it with the following: ”any building where construction has
7 commenced prior to January first, nineteen hundred and seventy-five and which have been
8 submitted to the provisions of chapter one hundred and eighty-three A shall comply with the
9 following schedule for the installation of automatic sprinklers: - one-third of the gross square
10 footage of the building or structure shall be equipped with automatic sprinklers by March
11 thirtieth, two thousand and twenty- four; two-thirds of the gross square footage of the building or
12 structure shall be equipped with automatic sprinklers by March thirtieth, two thousand and
13 twenty- seven; and the entire gross square footage of the building or structure shall be equipped

14 with automatic sprinklers by March thirtieth, two thousand and thirty-one; provided, however,
15 that the owner of said building or structure may apply to the board of appeals of the fire safety
16 commission for an extension or a waiver of the provisions of this section as provided for in
17 section two hundred and one of chapter six. Any building or structure subject to the provisions of
18 this section shall have the option of complying with the following schedule: the entire gross
19 square footage of the building or structure shall be equipped with automatic sprinklers by March
20 thirtieth, two thousand and twenty-seven; provided, however, that under said option the owner of
21 said building or structure shall be deemed to have waived his right to any such extension of
22 time.”