

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 2478**

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

PRESENTED BY:

***Frank I. Smizik***

*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 disclosure of solvents used in dry cleaning.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:
<i>Frank I. Smizik</i>	<i>15th Norfolk</i>
<i>James B. Eldridge</i>	<i>Middlesex and Worcester</i>
<i>Barbara A. L'Italien</i>	<i>Second Essex and Middlesex</i>
<i>Kathleen O'Connor Ives</i>	<i>First Essex</i>
<i>Alice Hanlon Peisch</i>	<i>14th Norfolk</i>
<i>James R. Miceli</i>	<i>19th Middlesex</i>
<i>Marjorie C. Decker</i>	<i>25th Middlesex</i>
<i>Jonathan Hecht</i>	<i>29th Middlesex</i>
<i>James M. Cantwell</i>	<i>4th Plymouth</i>
<i>Paul R. Heroux</i>	<i>2nd Bristol</i>
<i>Solomon Goldstein-Rose</i>	<i>3rd Hampshire</i>
<i>Louis L. Kafka</i>	<i>8th Norfolk</i>
<i>Michelle M. DuBois</i>	<i>10th Plymouth</i>

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By Mr. Smizik of Brookline, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 2478) of Frank I. Smizik and others relative to the disclosure requirements for dry cleaners using toxic chemicals. Public Health.

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[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION  
SEE HOUSE, NO. 2068 OF 2015-2016.]

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**In the One Hundred and Ninetieth General Court  
(2017-2018)**  
\_\_\_\_\_

An Act requiring disclosure of solvents used in dry cleaning.

*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 111 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2014 Official Edition, is hereby  
2 amended by adding after section 235 the following section:—

3 Section 236. (a) The following words shall, unless the context clearly requires otherwise,  
4 have the following meanings:-

5 “Professional Garment Cleaner”, a business that removes soil, greases, paints and other  
6 unwanted substances from garments.

7 “Dry Cleaning Solvent”, a chemical other than water used to remove soil, greases, paints  
8 and other unwanted substances from garments, including perchloroethylene, n-propyl bromide,

9 and other organic solvents, including high flashpoint hydrocarbons, acetals, and glycol ethers,  
10 and siloxanes.

11 “Professional Wet Cleaning”, a water-based process to clean textiles (including wool,  
12 silk, rayon, natural and man-made fibers) that uses specialized washers and dryers, detergents,  
13 and specialized finishing equipment.

14 (b) Not later than January 1, 2019, professional garment cleaners using a dry cleaning  
15 solvent system or a water based system are required to post the following information for full  
16 disclosure to their customers, neighbors and employees. The purpose of the posting is to permit  
17 consumers to gain information about the composition and potential risks associated with their  
18 use.

19 (c) Professional garment cleaners that use one or more solvents for garment cleaning  
20 shall post in a conspicuous location in the facility a sign (8 ½ x 11 inches) that includes the name  
21 of the garment cleaner, the commercial brand name of the primary solvent used (e.g. DF2000TM  
22 Fluid; Green Earth®, Solvon K4, Solvair®), the chemical name of the solvent used (e.g.  
23 perchloroethylene, n-propyl bromide, hydrocarbon), and the name of the manufacturer of the  
24 solvent.

25 (d) Cleaners that use water as their primary solvent (i.e., professional wet cleaning) shall  
26 post in a conspicuous location in the facility a sign (8 ½ x 11 inches) that includes the name of  
27 the garment cleaner and the designation of the establishment as a professional wet cleaner.

28 (e) The sign for facilities utilizing dry cleaning solvent systems shall include the  
29 following words: “The primary chemical substance(s) used at this dry cleaning facility is(are)  
30 \_\_\_\_\_ . Information about the hazardous chemical substance used at this dry cleaning

31 facility can be found on the website of the Massachusetts Department of Environmental  
32 Protection and on the Safety Data Sheet, which may be read at  
33 [www.mass.gov/dep/drycleanermsds](http://www.mass.gov/dep/drycleanermsds).”

34 (f) The commissioner of the department of environmental protection shall establish by  
35 regulation a coded message for chemicals utilized in dry cleaning solvent systems that shall also  
36 be included in the sign. The coding system shall be informed by current research on the  
37 hazardous properties of each chemical utilized by garment cleaners. The system designations  
38 shall categorize chemicals based on the relative safety of solvents. The system must include  
39 designations for the following chemicals, including but not limited to: Perchloroethylene and n-  
40 PB, Siloxane, Hydrocarbon, Acetal, Propylene Glycol Ethers. Water based systems must also be  
41 included as a category in the coding system.

42 (g) Solvents included as an ingredient in spot cleaners in excess of 10% of the product are  
43 required to be included as described in provision (e) above.

44 (h) The Department of Environmental Protection shall post on its website a template of  
45 the sign to be used.

46 (i) The Department of Environmental Protection shall post on its website a Safety Data  
47 Sheet for each category of solvents used in dry cleaning. In addition, the Department shall post  
48 on its website a full report and summary of environmental, health, and safety information about  
49 each solvent published by the Massachusetts Toxics Use Reduction Institute.

50 (j) If the primary chemical substance used at the dry cleaning facility is designated as a  
51 Higher Hazard Substance under the Massachusetts Toxics Use Reduction Act (Chapter 21I), the

52 sign shall include the following additional words in bold red font: “This substance has been  
53 designated as a Higher Hazard Substance under the Massachusetts Toxics Use Reduction Act.”

54 (k) The Department of Environmental Protection shall adopt regulations to implement  
55 this section within one year of the effective date of this act.