

HOUSE No. 02607

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Tackey Chan

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 requiring investigation gas leak explosions by the Department of Public Utilities.

PETITION OF:

NAME:

| DISTRICT/ADDRESS:

HOUSE No. 02607

By Mr. Chan of Quincy, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 2607) of [petitioners] relative to requiring the investigation of gas leak explosions by the Department of Public Utilities Joint Committee on Telecommunications, Utilities and Energy.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand Eleven

An Act requiring investigation gas leak explosions by the Department of Public Utilities.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1 (10) After it is found that a gas leak caused an explosion by either the gas distribution company
2 or a local or state public safety official, the Department shall open a full investigation within 24
3 hours after the explosion and shall require the distribution gas company to retain and preserve all
4 materials related to the explosion, including, but not limited to, gas pipes, customer call
5 recordings and records, inspection reports, maps of the gas line, and leak survey records, and
6 make said materials for the Department for its investigation. The Department shall convene at
7 least one public hearing in the community where the explosion occurred. Should it be
8 determined by the Department that the distribution gas company was responsible for the
9 explosion; the Department shall direct the distribution gas company to take specific action to
10 prevent a future explosion and shall issue a civil penalty not to exceed \$250,000. Nothing in this
11 clause shall prevent a gas distribution company from taking actions necessary to protect the
12 public from a gas leak or from conducting repairs and replacements of gas lines.