

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 3262**

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**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

PRESENTED BY:

***Paul R. Heroux***

*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 to establish a pilot grant program using ‘Emotional CPR’ to decrease hostilities between police and citizens.

PETITION OF:

NAME:

DISTRICT/ADDRESS:

*Paul R. Heroux*

*2nd Bristol*

*Rady Mom*

*18th Middlesex*

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By Mr. Heroux of Attleboro, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 3262) of Paul R. Heroux and Rady Mom for legislation to establish a pilot program to reduce the traumatic consequences of interactions between police and vulnerable individuals. Public Safety and Homeland Security.

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[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION  
SEE HOUSE, NO. 2137 OF 2015-2016.]

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

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

An Act to establish a pilot grant program using ‘Emotional CPR’ to decrease hostilities between police and citizens.

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

1           Emotional CPR is a program designed to reduce the traumatic consequences of  
2 interactions between police and vulnerable individuals, leading to a reduction in injury to both  
3 officers and the community members. Given the current national focus on aggressive interactions  
4 between police officers and possible offenders, Emotional CPR training is a timely preventative  
5 technique to help minimize the occurrence of such unnecessary and unfortunate encounters.  
6 Participants have shared later that the training helps them to communicate with greater emotional  
7 understanding in all realms of their life, in addition to assisting persons in acute distress. This  
8 training is for prevention and is a public health education approach, because it can be used to  
9 help anyone, regardless of whether they have a diagnosable mental health condition.

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11           Section one: The Executive Office of Public Safety (EOPSS) shall create a pilot program  
12 to administer grants to municipal police departments to train police officers to connect with any  
13 member of the community in acute emotional distress in a non-threatening and supportive  
14 manner.

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16           Section two: Grant award winners shall be provided with funds to train 16 participants  
17 with 2 trainers over a 14-hour period. The training is very practical and teaches the skills of  
18 connecting, empowering, and revitalizing mostly through role-plays with feedback and dialogue.

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20           Section three: Criteria for an evaluation of the pilot program will take place pre-and post  
21 training in order to (1) track the efficacy of the training materials, (2) to measure subsequent  
22 usage of the material in the workplace. The University of Massachusetts Medical School in  
23 collaboration with EOPSS will support the development and distribution of this research along  
24 with NEC staff.

25           Section four: The results of the pilot program shall be provided to the Legislature and  
26 EOPSS and made available to the public.