

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 3477**

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The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

*Shawn Dooley*

*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 Relative to American Sign Language Training.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:
<i>Shawn Dooley</i>	<i>9th Norfolk</i>
<i>Chris Walsh</i>	<i>6th Middlesex</i>
<i>Todd M. Smola</i>	<i>1st Hampden</i>

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By Mr. Dooley of Norfolk, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 3477) of Shawn Dooley, Chris Walsh and Todd M. Smola for legislation to provide sign language training for public safety personnel and emergency medical personnel. Public Safety and Homeland Security.

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The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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**In the One Hundred and Eighty-Ninth General Court  
(2015-2016)**  
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An Act Relative to American Sign Language Training.

*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 165 of chapter 6 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2012  
2 Official Edition, is hereby amended by inserting after clause (6) the following clause:-

3 (7) the establishment of training and on-going education courses that allow for basic  
4 understanding of American Sign Language by all levels of fire service personnel.

5 SECTION 2. Section 20 of chapter 22C of the General Laws, as so appearing, is hereby  
6 amended by inserting after the word “program”, in line 5, the following words:- ; provided that  
7 such training program shall include courses that allow for basic understanding of American Sign  
8 Language.

9 SECTION 3. Said section 20 of said chapter 22C, as so appearing, is hereby further  
10 amended by inserting after the word “police”, in line 6, the following words:- ; provided that  
11 such in-service training program shall include courses that allow for basic understanding of  
12 American Sign Language.

13           SECTION 4. Section 9 of chapter 111C of the General Laws, as so appearing, is hereby  
14 amended by inserting after the word “chapter”, in line 17, the following words:- ; and unless  
15 such person or any person providing, operating or participating in an ambulance service has  
16 successfully completed courses that allow for basic understanding of American Sign Language."

17           SECTION 5. Said chapter 111C, as so appearing, is hereby further amended by adding  
18 the following section:-

19           Section 26. The department shall designate certain American Sign Language courses as  
20 eligible for continuing education credits required pursuant to this chapter.