

SENATE No. 1238

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Harriette L. Chandler

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 implementing a blue alert system in the Commonwealth.

PETITION OF:

NAME:

Harriette L. Chandler

DISTRICT/ADDRESS:

First Worcester

SENATE No. 1238

By Ms. Chandler, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 1238) of Harriette L. Chandler for legislation to implement a blue alert system in the Commonwealth. Public Safety and Homeland Security.

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION
SEE SENATE, NO. 1114 OF 2013-2014.]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

—————
In the One Hundred and Eighty-Ninth General Court
(2015-2016)
—————

An Act relative to implementing a blue alert system in the Commonwealth.

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. Chapter 6A of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2012 Official Edition,
2 is hereby amended by adding after section 18L the following section:-

3 Section 18M.

4 (a) As used in this section, the following words shall, unless the context clearly requires
5 otherwise, have the following meanings:—

6 “EMS first responder”, a person providing emergency medical services as defined in
7 section 1 of chapter 111C.

8 “First responders”, members of police and fire departments, members of the state police
9 participating in highway patrol and members of emergency reserve units of a volunteer fire

10 department or fire protection district trained to administer first aid; provided, however, that first
11 responders shall not include police officers, fire fighters and persons engaged in police and fire
12 work whose duties are primarily clerical or administrative.

13 “Private safety department”, an entity that provides emergency police, fire, ambulance or
14 medical services, excluding a municipality or a public safety department.

15 “Public safety department”, a functional division of a municipality or a state that provides
16 fire fighting, law enforcement, ambulance, medical or other emergency services.

17 “Secretary”, the secretary of public safety.

18 (b) There is hereby created, subject to available funds, a blue alert community response
19 system. The blue alert system shall be used when law enforcement officials are searching for an
20 individual who is wanted in the serious injury or killing of a police officer, state trooper, or other
21 law enforcement official. The blue alert system shall direct and focus law enforcement and other
22 key response resources in a cost-effective way within a geographic area consistent with the
23 location of the incident.

24 (c) The executive office of public safety, in conjunction with the department of state
25 police, shall, subject to available funds, develop and implement the blue alert system. The
26 secretary shall adopt rules and regulations, as necessary, to ensure proper implementation of the
27 blue alert system.

28 In promulgating such rules and regulations, the secretary shall consult with: the attorney
29 general, the executive director of the state 911 department, a representative of the state police, a
30 representative of the Massachusetts Chiefs of Police Association, a representative of the

31 Massachusetts Sheriffs' Association, and a park ranger with the department of conservation and
32 recreation.

33 (d) All first responders, EMS first responders, 911 operators and other appropriate
34 personnel as determined by the secretary shall be trained on the blue alert system application and
35 protocols. Re-training shall be included in the in-service training curriculum for such personnel.