

**SENATE . . . . . No. 870**

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The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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PRESENTED BY:

*Thomas M. McGee*

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*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 clarify the charitable purposes of certain organizations.

\_\_\_\_\_  
PETITION OF:

NAME:

*Thomas M. McGee*

DISTRICT/ADDRESS:

*Third Essex*

**SENATE . . . . . No. 870**

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By Mr. McGee, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 870) of Thomas M. McGee for legislation to clarify the charitable purposes of certain organizations. The Judiciary.

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[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION  
SEE SENATE, NO. 763 OF 2013-2014.]

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**In the One Hundred and Eighty-Ninth General Court  
(2015-2016)**  
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An Act to clarify the charitable purposes of certain organizations.

*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 85K of Chapter 231 of the General Laws is hereby amended by striking out the  
2 first sentence of the first paragraph and inserting in place thereof the following sentence:-

3 It shall not constitute a defense to any cause of action based on tort brought against a  
4 corporation, trustees of a trust, or members of an association that said corporation, trust or  
5 association is or at the time the cause of action arose was a charity; provided, that if (a) the tort  
6 was committed in the course of any activity carried on to accomplish directly the charitable  
7 purposes of such corporation, trust or association, and such corporation, trust or association  
8 derives more than fifty percent of its income from charitable gifts or donations or (b) such  
9 charitable corporation, trust or association has been established primarily for religious purposes,

10 then liability in any such cause of action shall not exceed the sum of twenty thousand dollars,  
11 exclusive of interest and costs.