

**SENATE . . . . . No. 1196**

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The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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PRESENTED BY:

***Katherine M. Clark***

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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 passage of the accompanying:

An Act relative to the regionalization of public safety services.

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PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:
<i>Katherine M. Clark</i>	<i>Middlesex and Essex</i>
<i>James J. Dwyer</i>	<i>30th Middlesex</i>
<i>Jason M. Lewis</i>	<i>31st Middlesex</i>
<i>Paul Brodeur</i>	<i>32nd Middlesex</i>
<i>Bradley H. Jones, Jr.</i>	<i>20th Middlesex</i>

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By Ms. Clark, petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 1196) of Katherine M. Clark, James J. Dwyer, Jason M. Lewis, Paul Brodeur and Bradley H. Jones, Jr. for legislation to regionalize public safety services [Joint Committee on Public Safety and Homeland Security].

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**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

An Act relative to the regionalization of public safety services.

*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. The Middlesex Sheriff’s Office (hereafter the Sheriff), the city of Melrose  
2 and the towns of Reading, Stoneham and Wakefield (hereafter the municipalities) are herewith  
3 authorized through their respective mayor or boards of selectmen to enter into a written  
4 agreement for the purpose of establishing, constructing, equipping, operating and maintaining a  
5 consolidated regional public safety communications center (“Center”). For purposes of this Act,  
6 the member communities and the Sheriff shall hereinafter be known as the Middlesex Regional  
7 Emergency Communications Council (“MRECC”).

8 SECTION 2. The written agreement shall provide for the management of the Center by a  
9 board of directors (“Board”) comprised of the following five (5) positions: one person appointed  
10 by each member municipality, with the Sheriff or designee serving ex officio, and representing  
11 among them fire services, police services, and a municipal chief administrative officer. Said  
12 board shall set forth the financial terms and conditions of membership in and management of the  
13 Center. Such Board may employ expert assistance as it deems necessary, but wherever possible  
14 shall utilize resources available among its members.

15 SECTION 3. Once established, the Board shall promulgate rules and guidelines  
16 governing the terms by which another municipality may be admitted to MRECC, the method by  
17 which the agreement may be amended, the procedure for the preparation and adoption of the  
18 annual budget, procedure for securing bond funding or direct appropriations for capital needs,  
19 the staffing levels and personnel selection for the Center, and any other matters, not incompatible  
20 with law.

21 SECTION 4. The board of directors shall establish and manage a fund to which all  
22 monies contributed by the towns, and grants and gifts from the federal or state government or  
23 any other source shall be deposited. The board of directors may appoint a treasurer who may be

24 a treasurer of one of the member municipalities. The treasurer, subject to the direction and  
25 approval of the board of directors shall be authorized to receive, invest and disburse all funds of  
26 the Center without further appropriation. The treasurer shall give bond for the faithful  
27 performance of his/her duties in a form and amount fixed by the board of directors.

28 SECTION 5. MRECC may apply for, receive and expend, without appropriation, gifts or  
29 grant funding from the federal, state or local government as well as private grantors including but  
30 not limited to revenues from municipal 911 surcharges in member municipalities.

31 SECTION 6. MRECC shall have the authority to borrow money, and enter into long- or  
32 short-term loan agreements or mortgages.

33 SECTION 7. MRECC may enter into contracts for the purchase of supplies, materials  
34 and services and for the purchase or lease of land, buildings and equipment as deemed necessary.

35 SECTION 8. MRECC shall be deemed a public employer and have the authority to  
36 employ personnel to carry out the purposes of the Center and to establish the duties,  
37 compensation and other terms and conditions of employment of personnel.

38 SECTION 9. MRECC shall be deemed a public entity and shall have standing to sue or  
39 to be sued to the same extent as a city or town.

40 SECTION 10. The written agreement establishing the Center may make provision for the  
41 method of termination of the Center and may also provide procedures for the addition of new  
42 member municipalities and the assessment and collection of fees and payments associated  
43 therewith, the withdrawal of municipalities and representation of new members on the board of  
44 directors.