

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

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**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

PRESENTED BY:

**Bruce J. Ayers**

*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 bill:

An Act establishing penalties for the filing of false reports against police officers.

PETITION OF:

NAME:

Bruce J. Ayers

DISTRICT/ADDRESS:

1st Norfolk

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION  
SEE HOUSE, NO. 75 OF 2007-2008.]

## The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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In the Year Two Thousand and Nine  
—————

### AN ACT ESTABLISHING PENALTIES FOR THE FILING OF FALSE REPORTS AGAINST POLICE OFFICERS..

*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 268 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2004 Official Edition, is hereby amended by  
2 inserting after section 32B the following new section:—  
3  
4 Section 32C. Every person who files any allegation of misconduct against any police officer, knowing the report to  
5 be false, shall be punished by imprisonment in the state prison for not more than twenty years or by a fine of not  
6 more than \$1000 or by imprisonment in jail for not more than 2 ½ years, or by both such a fine and imprisonment in  
7 jail. For the purposes of this section, “police officer” shall mean an employee of a city, town, county, the  
8 Commonwealth or the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority authorized to make arrest.  
9 Any law enforcement agency accepting an allegation of misconduct against a police officer shall require the  
10 complainant to read and sign the following information advisory, all in bold-face type:  
11 **YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO MAKE A COMPLAINT AGAINST A POLICE OFFICER FOR ANY**  
12 **IMPROPER CONDUCT. THIS AGENCY MAY FIND THERE IS NOT ENOUGH EVIDENCE TO**  
13 **SUBSTANTIATE YOUR ALLEGATION AND WARRANT ACTION ON YOUR COMPLAINT: EVEN IF**  
14 **THIS IS THE CASE, YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO MAKE THE COMPLAINT AND HAVE IT**  
15 **INVESTIGATED IF YOU BELIEVE AN OFFICER BEHAVED IMPROPERLY.**  
16 **PLEASE BE ADVISED THAT IT IS ILLEGAL TO MAKE A COMPLAINT YOU KNOW TO BE FALSE.**  
17 **IF YOU MAKE A COMPLAINT AGAINST AN OFFICER KNOWING IT IS FALSE, YOU MAY BE**  
18 **PROSECUTED ON A FELONY CHARGE.**  
19 **I HAVE READ AND UNDERSTOOD THE ABOVE STATEMENT. I FURTHER REALIZE THIS**  
20 **COMPLAINT IS SIGNED UNDER THE PAINS AND PENALTIES OF PERJURY.**