

HOUSE No.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:
Kevin J. Murphy

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 requiring certain municipal inspectors to report cases of child abuse.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:
Kevin J. Murphy	18th Middlesex

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION
SEE HOUSE, NO. 125 OF 2007-2008.]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

**AN ACT REQUIRING CERTAIN MUNICIPAL INSPECTORS TO REPORT CASES OF CHILD
ABUSE.**

*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 first paragraph of section 51A of chapter 119 of the General Laws is hereby
2 further amended by striking out the first sentence and inserting in place thereof the following sentence:—
3
4 Any physician, medical intern, hospital personnel engaged in the examination, care or treatment of
5 persons, medical examiner, psychologist, emergency medical technician, dentist, nurse, chiropractor,
6 podiatrist, optometrist, osteopath, public or private school teacher, educational administrator, guidance or
7 family counselor, day care worker or any person paid to care for or work with a child in any public or
8 private facility, or home or program funded by the commonwealth or licensed pursuant to the provisions
9 of chapter 28A, which provides day care or residential services to children or which provides the services
10 of child care resource and referral agencies, voucher management agencies, family day care systems and
11 childcare food programs, probation officer, clerk/magistrate of the district courts, parole officer, social
12 worker, foster parent, firefighter or policeman, building inspector, board of health inspector, lead paint
13 inspector, office for children licenser, school attendance officer, allied mental health and human services
14 professional as licensed pursuant to the provisions of section 165 of chapter 112, drug and alcoholism
15 counselor, psychiatrist, and clinical social worker, who, in his professional capacity shall have reasonable
16 cause to believe that a child under the age of 18 years is suffering physical or emotional injury resulting
17 from abuse inflicted upon him which causes harm or substantial risk of harm to the child's health or
18 welfare including sexual abuse, or from neglect, including malnutrition, or who is determined to be
19 physically dependent upon an addictive drug at birth, shall immediately report such condition to the
20 department by oral communication and by making a written report within 48 hours after such oral
21 communication; provided, however, that whenever such person so required to report is a member of the
22 staff of a medical or other public or private institution, school or facility, he shall immediately either

23 notify the department or notify the person in charge of such institution, school or facility, or that person's
24 designated agent, whereupon such person in charge or his said agent shall then become responsible to
25 make the report in the manner required by this section.