

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

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**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

PRESENTED BY:

**John A. Hart, Jr.**

*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 Relative to Promoting Safety by Making Gas Gate Boxes Easily Accessible to Gas Company Service Employees and Emergency Public Service Personnel.**

PETITION OF:

NAME:

John A. Hart, Jr.

DISTRICT/ADDRESS:

First Suffolk

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION  
SEE SENATE, NO. S01932 OF 2007-2008.]

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

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**In the Year Two Thousand and Nine**

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AN ACT RELATIVE TO PROMOTING SAFETY BY MAKING GAS GATE BOXES EASILY  
ACCESSIBLE TO GAS COMPANY SERVICE EMPLOYEES AND EMERGENCY PUBLIC  
SERVICE PERSONNEL.

*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 90 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2000 Official Edition,  
2 is hereby amended by inserting at the end thereof the following:

3 All gas gate boxes that are buried underground on private property or located under a sidewalk,  
4 street, road or in any other manner not immediately or easily accessible to gas company  
5 employees or emergency public safety personnel shall be replaced by a gas gate box that is easily  
6 and immediately accessible. If a gas gate box is not immediately and easily accessible, it must be  
7 made so by excavating it if necessary and marking it with a clear and functioning entrance door  
8 adequate to allow a gas utility employee or emergency public safety employee access to the gas  
9 shutoff control. Only gas company authorized employees and emergency public safety  
10 personnel shall have the means to shut off and turn on the gas service via a gas gate box. Any gas

11 company that must excavate or use other means to relocate or make it accessible a gas shutoff  
12 may apply for funds under this chapter to pay for said excavation or relocation work. Any  
13 chapter 90 funded construction contract to repair streets; roads and sidewalks must include the  
14 maintenance and improvement of all gas gate boxes.