

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 629**

By Mr. Ayers of Quincy, petition of Bruce J. Ayers and Michael W. Morrissey for legislation to establish an emergency equipment grant program for firefighters. Election Laws.

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

In the Year Two Thousand and Seven.

AN ACT ESTABLISHING AN EMERGENCY EQUIPMENT GRANT PROGRAM FOR FIREFIGHTERS.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:*

1 Chapter 6A of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2004 Offi-  
2 cial Edition, is hereby amended by inserting after Section 18 the  
3 following new section:—

4 Section 18¼. The Executive Office of Public Safety, in consulta-  
5 tion with the State Fire Marshal, the Massachusetts Fire Chiefs  
6 Association and the Professional Firefighters of Massachusetts AFL-  
7 CIO-CLC, shall annually promulgate a listing of fire equipment  
8 devices and new technologies that are considered vital to the safety,  
9 health and welfare of firefighters responding to fire emergencies and  
10 other public safety situations. Said list shall indicate the value of the  
11 stated equipment with respect to particular emergency situations and  
12 shall further detail the number of pieces of equipment recommended  
13 based on size of department and population served.

14 Such list shall be finalized no later than February first of each  
15 year and shall include items both vital to maintaining the integrity  
16 and effectiveness of department equipment and the personal health  
17 and safety of firefighters. This list should focus on minimum needs,  
18 recommended apparatus and suggested new technologies that have  
19 proven useful in managing and containing fires and protecting the  
20 lives of response personnel and victims. Upon completion, the sum-  
21 mary list prepared under the provisions of this section shall be for-  
22 warded to each local fire chief and the president of the local  
23 representative labor organization corresponding with said fire chief's  
24 district.

25 All local Fire Chiefs, in conjunction with the appropriate repre-  
26 sentative labor organization corresponding with said fire chief's dis-  
27 trict, shall annually audit each department to ascertain whether the  
28 department meets the target criteria established in paragraph one of  
29 this section. Deficiencies in recommended equipment and the lack of  
30 available, suggested technologies in each department shall be  
31 reported to the Secretary of the Executive Office of Public Safety  
32 and the State Fire Marshal no later than March fifteenth of each year.  
33 Said Secretary shall then determine the cost of supplying depart-  
34 ments with all equipment necessary to eliminate the deficiencies  
35 reported in accordance with this paragraph and shall separately  
36 determine the cost of purchasing all suggested equipment local  
37 departments have reported as not within their possession. No later  
38 than April seventh of each year, said Secretary shall submit the cal-  
39 culation of these costs to the house and senate committees on ways  
40 and means and recommend the inclusion of an appropriation within  
41 the annual general appropriation act to rectify all deficient condi-  
42 tions at local fire departments and to upgrade departments by pro-  
43 viding the latest fire safety equipment.

44 Subject to appropriation, said secretary shall make targeted grants  
45 to local fire departments for the purpose of upgrading the response  
46 and safety equipment to meet target criteria established in paragraph  
47 one of this section. Such grants will be based on need and the prin-  
48 ciple of maximizing the available appropriation to account for the  
49 greatest improvement in public safety; provided that at least fifty  
50 percent of any amount so appropriated is earmarked for distribution  
51 to fire departments serving populations under 50,000 residents.