

HOUSE No. 2384

By Mr. Swan of Springfield, petition of Benjamin Swan and others for legislation to prohibit the use of inappropriate language by public safety officers in the Commonwealth. Public Safety and Homeland Security.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PETITION OF:

Benjamin Swan
Gloria L. Fox
Willie Mae Allen

William Lantigua
Christine E. Canavan

In the Year Two Thousand and Seven.

AN ACT TO PROHIBIT INAPPROPRIATE LANGUAGE USE BY SWORN LAW 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. *Whereas*, the misuse of language of a racial, gender,
2 ethnic, origin or religion nature has frequently led to violent con-
3 frontations; and

4 *Whereas*, citizens have a God-given inalienable right not to be
5 insulted by public servants whose compensation is provided by tax;

6 *Therefore*, regardless to any act to the contrary, this act shall make
7 it unlawful and a violation of oath-of-office for any sworn law offi-
8 cers, i.e., police officers, state police, correctional officers, court
9 officers, environment police, sheriff deputies, or any other sworn
10 law officer to use or engage in the use thereof, during, or in the line
11 of or course of duty language which cast a negative reflection
12 toward an individual's race, color, ethnic origin, religion, economic
13 status nor any other category of negative stereotyping.

1 SECTION 2. No racial slurs, name-callings, nor profanity used
2 directed toward another individual shall be used in the course of,
3 during or in the line of duty, and any such use of the same shall con-

4 stitute a breach of the officer's sworn oath and shall constitute
5 grounds for dismissal from further duties as a law officer.