

HOUSE No. 4679

By Mr. O'Donnell of Peabody (by request), petition of Joseph D. Dixon for legislation to provide for minimum standards governing fire alarm systems in the Commonwealth. Public Safety.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Seventy.

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE MINIMUM STANDARDS GOVERNING FIRE ALARM SYSTEMS IN THE COMMONWEALTH.

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 148 of the General Laws is hereby
2 amended by inserting after section 28B, the following sections:—
3 *Section 28C.* The following types of buildings shall have an
4 approved automatic and manual auxiliary or remote station fire
5 alarm system with complete thermodetector coverage (a) hospi-
6 tals, (b) nursing homes and (c) convalescent homes.
7 *Section 28D.* The following types of buildings shall have an
8 approved automatic and manual auxiliary or remote station fire
9 alarm system with partial thermodetector coverage (a) lodging
10 houses, (b) hotels, (c) school houses, (d) sanatariums, (e) rest
11 homes, (f) infirmaries, (g) foster day care agencies, (h) dormi-
12 tories, (i) day care agencies, (j) apartment houses, (k) public
13 housing, (l) office buildings, manufacturing or commercial build-
14 ings two stories or more in height or thirty thousand square feet
15 or more in area. In partially covered buildings, thermodetectors
16 or smoke detectors shall be installed in all boiler rooms, kitchens,
17 storage areas, the top of all stairwells, and in science, chemistry
18 or art classrooms or preparation rooms in schools.
19 *Section 28E.* All systems shall be connected to normal emer-
20 gency electrical systems in buildings having an emergency
21 generator with an automatic transfer switch; all other systems
22 shall have automatically charged wet cell battery standby of

23 sufficient capacity to operate the entire system for up to twenty-
24 four hours after an alternating current power failure.

25 If the alarm system is to be installed in a building in a city,
26 town or fire district having a municipal alarm system, the
27 system within the building shall be connected into the municipal
28 system via a master box or an auxiliary transmitter so that any
29 alarm within the building will be automatically relayed to the
30 municipal fire department.

31 Systems installed in buildings in a city, town or fire district not
32 having a municipal alarm system shall be connected to a remote
33 station via a supervised leased telephone (or other) line.

34 In either event, the local authority having jurisdiction (the
35 chief of the fire department, the superintendent of fire alarm or
36 the fire prevention officer) shall be consulted as to the type and
37 location of the master box or auxiliary transmitter or the loca-
38 tion of the remote station.

39 Systems installed in buildings larger than thirty thousand
40 square feet or more than one story in height shall be equipped
41 with a zone annunciator or a coded system with a punch tape
42 recorder to indicate the location of the origin of the alarm.
43 Exact zone indication as well as the location of the annunciator
44 or punch tape recorder within the building shall be as determined
45 by the local authority having jurisdiction.

46 *Section 28F.* All smoke doors in all buildings covered by this
47 standard shall be equipped with magnetic door holders in-
48 stalled so as to close the doors any time the alarm system within
49 the building is activated. A smoke detector connected to the
50 alarm system within a building shall be installed proximate to
51 every smoke door.

52 In all systems, manual stations shall be installed in accor-
53 dance with the requirements of N.F.P.A. seventy-two B or
54 seventy-two C.

55 Horns shall be used as evacuation signals in all buildings
56 except, bells or chimes may be used in hospitals, nursing homes,
57 rest homes, sanitariums.

1 SECTION 2. This act shall be applicable to new construction
2 on the effective date thereof and to existing buildings within
3 three years from the effective date thereof.