

By Mr. Manning of Milton, petition of the Professional Fire Fighters of Massachusetts and M. Joseph Manning for legislation relative to mutual aid pacts between fire fighting forces of municipalities. Public Safety.

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Eighty-Four.

AN ACT RELATIVE TO MUTUAL AID PACTS BETWEEN FIRE FIGHTING FORCES OF MUNICIPALITIES.

*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 48 of the General Laws is hereby amended by striking  
2 out section 59A and inserting in place thereof the following  
3 section: —

4 Section 59A. Cities, towns and fire districts may, by ordinance  
5 or by law, or by vote of the board of aldermen, selectmen or of the  
6 prudential committee or board exercising similar powers, autho-  
7 rize their respective fire departments to go to aid another city,  
8 town, fire district or area under federal jurisdiction in this com-  
9 monwealth or in any adjoining state in extinguishing fires therein,  
10 or rendering any other emergency aid or performing any detail as  
11 ordered by the head of the fire department, and while in the  
12 performance of their duties in extending such aid the members of  
13 such departments shall have the same immunities and privileges as  
14 if performing the same within their respective cities, towns or  
15 districts. Any such ordinance, by-law or vote may authorize the  
16 head of the fire department to extend such aid, subject to such  
17 conditions and restrictions as may be prescribed therein. The  
18 words "fire departments" as used in this section shall mean only  
19 lawfully organized permanent, paid, full-time fire fighting forces,  
20 however constituted.

21 During the course of rendering such aid to another municipal-  
22 ity, the municipality rendering aid shall be responsible for the

23 operation of its equipment and for any damage thereto, and, sub-  
24 ject to the limitations of municipal liability, for personal injury  
25 sustained or caused by a member of its fire department, and for  
26 any payments which it is required to make to a member of said  
27 department or to his widow or other dependents on account of  
28 injuries or death, notwithstanding paragraph (b) of subdivision (4)  
29 of section seven of chapter thirty-two, unless such municipalities  
30 have a written agreement to the contrary.