HOUSE . . . . . No. 1409

By Mrs. Owens-Hicks of Boston, petition of Shirley Owens-Hicks and others for legislation to provide for the installation of bi-directional amplifier systems in certain buildings to provide for emergency communications between public safety and medical personnel. Public Safety and Homeland Security.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PETITION OF:

Shirley Owens-Hicks	Brian P. Wallace
Thomas M. Menino	Elizabeth A. Malia
Martin J. Walsh	

In the Year Two Thousand and Five.

AN ACT TO REQUIRE THE INSTALLATION OF IN BUILDING EMERGENCY RADIO SYSTEMS IN HIGH RISE BUILDINGS.

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

Chapter 148 of the General Laws is hereby amended by adding the following new section at the end thereof:—

Section 60. Any building of more than 120 feet in height shall install a bi-directional amplifier system to provide adequate radio coverage for emergency radio systems including but not limited to fire, police and emergency medical services radio systems. Plans for installation of the bi-directional system must be submitted within 6 months of approval of this section to the head of the local fire department for approval. The bi-directional amplifier system shall be installed within six months after approval of the local fire department.

For purpose of this section, adequate radio coverage shall include all of the following:

(1) A minimum signal strength of one (1) microvolt (-95dBm) available in 95% of the area of each floor when transmitted from the Public Safety Agency;

(2) A minimum signal strength of one (1) microvolt (-95dBm) received at the Public Safety Agency from 95% of the area of each floor of the building; and

(3) The frequency range must support the emergency radio systems including but not limited to fire, police and emergency medical services radio systems and have a 95% reliability factor.

Buildings and structures which cannot support the required level of radio coverage shall be equipped with any of the following in order to achieve the required adequate radio coverage: a radiating cable system or an internal multiple antenna system with or without FCC type accepted bi-directional UHF amplifiers as needed. If any part of the installed system or systems contains an electrically powered component, the system shall be capable of operating on an independent battery and/or generator system for a period of at least twelve (12) hours without external power input. The battery system shall automatically charge in the presence of an external power input.