

By Mr. Swan of Springfield, petition of Benjamin Swan, Patricia D. Jehlen, Susan C. Fargo, Gloria L. Fox and Shirley Owens-Hicks for legislation to prohibit inappropriate language by public safety officers in the Commonwealth. Public Safety.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand and One.

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,
2 gender, ethnic, origin or religion nature has frequently led to vio-
3 lent confrontations; and

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

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

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

