

HOUSE No. 2979

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Daniel Cahill

To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in General Court assembled:

The undersigned legislators and/or citizens respectfully petition for the adoption of the accompanying bill:

An Act relative to electronic license plates.

PETITION OF:

NAME:

Daniel Cahill

DISTRICT/ADDRESS:

10th Essex

HOUSE No. 2979

By Mr. Cahill of Lynn, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 2979) of Daniel Cahill relative to the issuance of electronic license plates by the Registry of Motor Vehicles. Transportation.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

**In the One Hundred and Ninety-First General Court
(2019-2020)**

An Act relative to electronic license plates.

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 90 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2016 Official Edition, is hereby
2 amended by inserting after section 6C the following section:-

3 SECTION 6D: (a) The registry of motor vehicles may issue one or more stickers, tabs, or
4 other suitable devices in lieu of the license plates provided for under this chapter. Except where
5 the physical differences between the stickers, tabs, or devices and license plates by their nature
6 render the provisions of this code inapplicable, all provisions of this code relating to license
7 plates may apply to stickers, tabs, or devices.

8 (b) The registry may establish a pilot program to evaluate the use of alternatives to
9 license plates as described in section (a) subject to all of the following requirements:

10 (1) The alternative products shall be approved by the Massachusetts State Police.

11 (2) The pilot program shall be limited to no more than 0.5 percent of registered vehicles
12 for the purpose of road testing and evaluation.

13 (3) The alternative products to be evaluated shall be provided at no cost to the state.

14 (4) Any pilot program established by the department pursuant to this subdivision shall be
15 completed no later than 12 months from the passing of this legislation.

16 (5) Any pilot program established by the registry of motor vehicles pursuant to this
17 section shall be limited to vehicle owners who have voluntarily chosen to participate in the pilot
18 program.

19 (c) In the conduct of any pilot program pursuant to this section, any data exchanged
20 between the registry of motor vehicles and any electronic device or the provider of any electronic
21 device shall be limited to that data necessary to display evidence of registration compliance. The
22 registry of motor vehicle shall not receive or retain any information generated during the pilot
23 program regarding the movement, location, or use of a vehicle participating in the pilot program.

24 (d) If the registry of motor vehicles conducts a pilot program authorized in section (b),
25 the registry shall, no later than 18 months after formation of the pilot program, submit a report of
26 the results of the pilot program to the Legislature, to include, but not be limited to, the following:

27 (1) An evaluation of the cost effectiveness of the alternatives used in the pilot program
28 when compared to the department's current use of stickers, tabs, license plates, and registration
29 cards.

30 (2) A review of all products evaluated in the pilot program and of the features of those
31 products. The report shall note if the devices evaluated in the pilot program are available with the

32 ability to transmit and retain information relating to the movement, location, or use of a vehicle,
33 and if a product contains that feature, the report shall also note if the product includes any
34 security features to protect against unauthorized access to information.

35 (3) Recommendations for subsequent actions, if any, that should be taken with regard to
36 alternatives evaluated in the pilot program.