

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 2992**

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**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

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PRESENTED BY:

***Michael S. Day, (BY REQUEST)***

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*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 to improve pedestrian and vehicular safety.**

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PETITION OF:

NAME:

DISTRICT/ADDRESS:

*Vincent Lawrence Dixon*

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 2992**

By Mr. Day of Stoneham (by request), a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 2992) of Vincent Lawrence Dixon that the Massachusetts Department of Transportation establish standards suitable for safety for markings on roadways, streets and other traffic surfaces. Transportation.

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

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

An Act to improve pedestrian and vehicular safety.

*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. The Massachusetts General Laws are hereby amended by inserting the  
2 following new chapter:

3 An Act to improve pedestrian and vehicular safety.

4 1.) The safety of pedestrians, and vehicular traffic, is a serious policy concern.

5 Properly marked crosswalks, vehicle lanes, and other markings, help to protect  
6 pedestrians, vehicles, and improve general public safety. Due to the normal process of

7 weathering, and volumes of traffic, the visibility of such markings deteriorates over time,

8 and

9 declines in the value of performing, its intended purposes.

10 2.) Therefore, this Statute, sets standards, which are to be regularly reviewed, enforced,  
11 incentivized, and when possible, assisted by the Commonwealth, in keeping these  
12 markings to a  
13 sufficient standard to perform their important role in public safety.

14 3.) The Massachusetts Department of Transportation, shall establish particular standards,  
15 that are suitable for safety of all markings, on roadways, streets, and other traffic  
16 surfaces.

17 The Mass DOT, should be encouraged, to provide modest financial incentives, for all  
18 local  
19 jurisdictions to keep these visual standards, in current, sufficient, and even peak  
20 conditions.

21 4.) Measurement of Lumens, by devices that measure reflectivity, and/or can be  
22 measured  
23 by light meters, and/or other standards; shall be further researched, and enumerated, in a  
24 formal  
25 listing or document: "Pedestrian and Traffic Markings Safety Maintenance," to be  
26 established  
27 by regulation; with suitable public input, enforceable on all state, regional, and municipal  
28 roadways, and traffic surfaces, in the interest of health and safety.

29 5.) Roadway, and traffic surfaces, shall be measured, and ordered to be kept at a  
30 particular level of reflectivity, and visibility, in all areas. All local residents, may notify  
31 their  
32 local DPW offices, and/or the DOT of Massachusetts, when they believe that any of these  
33 markings, especially pedestrian crosswalks, and busy intersections, have markings that  
34 have  
35 deteriorated below a level, that would be useful in protecting pedestrians, and facilitating  
36 safer  
37 traffic.

38 6.) Municipalities may, and should be encouraged to, establish local hotline numbers for  
39 collecting such complaints, for prompt response.

40 7.) The Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Department of Transportation, shall also  
41 assess the costs of keeping such markings up to the needed level of safety, and  
42 recommend what  
43 appropriations might be shared by the Commonwealth, in training local municipal staff,  
44 to keep  
45 these markings as needed, to the legal standards.