

HOUSE No. 3270

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Natalie M. Blais

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 unpaved roads.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	DATE ADDED:
<i>Natalie M. Blais</i>	<i>1st Franklin</i>	<i>1/11/2023</i>
<i>Aaron L. Saunders</i>	<i>7th Hampden</i>	<i>1/26/2023</i>

HOUSE No. 3270

By Representative Blais of Deerfield, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 3270) of Natalie M. Blais and Aaron L. Saunders relative to unpaved roads. Transportation.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

**In the One Hundred and Ninety-Third General Court
(2023-2024)**

An Act relative to unpaved roads.

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

1 The Massachusetts Department of Transportation, in conjunction with the Executive
2 Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs, shall convene a working group to identify and
3 evaluate the safe, efficient and environmentally sound maintenance and improvement of unpaved
4 (dirt and gravel) roads and paved low volume roads (LVR) in the Commonwealth.

5 The working group shall, at a minimum: develop a database of both unpaved roads and
6 paved LVRs; analyze the unpaved road miles and paved LVR miles per municipality and county
7 in relation to other road miles in the same municipality and county; collect data on the annual
8 maintenance and improvement costs for unpaved roads and paved LVR over the previous five
9 years for each municipality located in a county whose unpaved road miles total over 20% of total
10 county roadway mileage; examine the potential relationship between climate change and
11 maintenance and improvement costs for unpaved roads and paved LVRs; identify existing
12 funding streams in Massachusetts available to municipalities to maintain and improve unpaved
13 roads and paved LVRs; identify potential funding gaps to support the safe, efficient and

14 environmentally sound maintenance and improvement of unpaved and paved LVRs in the
15 Commonwealth; compile and review existing studies and reports on unpaved roads and paved
16 LVRs in the Commonwealth; determine the feasibility of developing a condition rating system
17 for unpaved roads and paved LVRs; determine the feasibility of developing statewide standards
18 for unpaved roads; research national best practices on the safe, efficient and environmentally
19 sound maintenance and improvement for unpaved roads and paved LVRs including existing
20 state-funded maintenance programs.

21 The working group shall include, but shall not be limited to: the secretary of
22 transportation or a designee, who shall serve as co-chair; the secretary of energy and
23 environmental affairs or a designee, who shall serve as co-chair; the commissioner of revenue or
24 a designee; the secretary of public safety and security or a designee; a designee of the rural
25 policy advisory commission; two designees of the Massachusetts Highway Association; a
26 designee of the Massachusetts Municipal Association, Inc.; a transportation planner from a MA
27 Transportation Planning Organization; a designee of the University of Massachusetts Amherst
28 Transportation Center; and a designee of the Massachusetts Association of Conservation
29 Commissions, Inc. The working group shall hold its first meeting not later than January 1, 2024.

30 The working group shall submit its findings to the clerks of the house of representatives
31 and the senate, the chairs of the house and senate committees on ways and means, the chairs of
32 the joint committee on environment, natural resources and agriculture and the chairs of the joint
33 committee on transportation not later than June 30, 2024.