

HOUSE No. 3537

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Joseph D. McKenna

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 establishing an emergency responder yellow dot program.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	DATE ADDED:
<i>Joseph D. McKenna</i>	<i>18th Worcester</i>	<i>1/7/2021</i>

HOUSE No. 3537

By Mr. McKenna of Webster, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 3537) of Joseph D. McKenna that the Registrar of Motor Vehicles be authorized to establish an emergency responder yellow dot program. Transportation.

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION
SEE HOUSE, NO. 3084 OF 2019-2020.]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

**In the One Hundred and Ninety-Second General Court
(2021-2022)**

An Act establishing an emergency responder yellow dot program.

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 is hereby amended by inserting after section 11 the
2 following section:-

3 Section 11A. (a) For the purposes of this section the following words shall, unless a
4 different meaning is apparent from the language or context, have the following meanings:-

5 “Emergency responder”, an emergency medical technician, emergency medical
6 technician-paramedic, paramedic, other emergency medical services provider, physician or nurse
7 on the scene or accompanying or attending a patient in an ambulance, fire fighter or law
8 enforcement officer on the scene. This definition shall apply whether an ‘emergency responder’

9 is on-scene in a professional capacity in response to an emergency call, or whether an individual
10 possessing such professional training is on-scene by simple happenstance.

11 “Program participant”, an individual who has completed a health information card that
12 includes health and emergency contact information, and affixed the decal provided by the
13 registrar pursuant to the yellow dot program to the individual's vehicle.

14 “Yellow dot program”, a voluntary program of the registry to assist drivers and
15 passengers who participate in the program and emergency medical responders in reporting
16 critical medical information in the event of a motor vehicle accident or a medical emergency
17 involving a program participant's vehicle.

18 (b) The registrar shall establish a yellow dot program in the registry. The yellow dot
19 program shall provide emergency responders with critical health and emergency contact
20 information about program participants so that emergency responders may aid program
21 participants when those individuals are involved in motor vehicle emergencies or accidents and
22 are unable to communicate. The registrar shall make yellow dot program materials available for
23 pick up by any interested person at any registry of motor vehicle customer service office and
24 shall provide for an on-line means through which individuals can request the materials required
25 to participate in the program. The registrar shall also make yellow dot materials available in
26 bulk, at no cost, to outside organizations wishing to disseminate those materials.

27 (c) The registrar shall provide to a program participant:

28 (1) a standard medical information form providing space for each participant to supply, at
29 a minimum, the following information: name; a photograph of the program participant taken
30 within the past 5 years clearly showing the participant's face; emergency contact information of

31 no more than 2 persons; medical information, including medical conditions, recent surgeries,
32 allergies, medications being taken, specific medical instructions and any religious objection to
33 receiving treatment; hospital preference; no more than 2 physicians' contact information; and the
34 date on which the participant completed the form. The medical information form shall include a
35 statement that the yellow dot program acts as a facilitator only, and that all information supplied
36 on the medical information form is the sole responsibility of the program participant. The
37 medical information form shall also include statements that the program participant supplies the
38 medical information voluntarily, and that the program participant authorizes the disclosure to,
39 and use of, the medical information by emergency medical responders and other responders for
40 the purposes described in this section.

41 (2) a yellow decal of a size and design to be determined by the registrar which may be
42 affixed to the rear driver's side window of the program participant's motor vehicle.

43 (3) a yellow envelope of a size and design to be determined by registrar into which the
44 health information card established pursuant to this subsection is to be inserted and placed in the
45 program participant's glove compartment; and

46 (4) a program instruction sheet.

47 (d) An emergency medical responder or other responder may use the information
48 contained in the yellow dot folder for the following purposes:

49 (1) to identify a participant in the yellow dot program;

50 (2) to ascertain whether the participant has a medical condition that may impede
51 communications with the responder;

52 (3) to communicate with the participant's emergency contacts about the location and
53 general condition of the participant; or

54 (4) to consider the person's current medications and pre-existing medical conditions when
55 emergency medical treatment is administered for any injury the participant suffers.

56 (e) the unauthorized taking of the personal information contained within an individual's
57 'yellow-dot' materials, and/or the use of such information for any purpose not related to life-
58 saving or other emergency response measures, shall fall under the definitions and enforcements
59 of 'identity theft' defined in MGL Chapter 266 Section 37E

60 (f) Except for wanton or willful misconduct, no emergency medical responder nor any
61 employer of an emergency medical responder, shall incur any liability if the emergency medical
62 responder or other responder is unable to make contact, in good faith, with an emergency contact
63 person, or disseminates or fails to disseminate any information from the yellow dot folder to
64 other emergency medical responders, hospitals, or any healthcare providers who render
65 emergency medical treatment to the participant. No health care provider or employer of a health
66 care provider shall incur any civil or criminal liability if the provider relies in good faith on the
67 information provided to them through the program.

68 (g) The registrar shall develop and undertake a public education campaign to inform the
69 public about the yellow dot program established pursuant to this section. The registrar shall
70 provide sufficient program materials to other state departments, agencies, non-profit
71 organizations, or automobile or driving organizations seeking to distribute or make program
72 materials available to interested persons.

73 (h) The registrar shall notify the executive office of public safety regarding the
74 implementation of the yellow dot program so that all emergency responders are informed about
75 the program.

76 (i) The Massachusetts Department of Transportation may accept donations and grants
77 from any source, including eligible federal safety funds, to pay the expenses the department of
78 transportation incurs in the development and implementation of the yellow dot motor vehicle
79 medical information program.