

SENATE No. 1546

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Harriette L. Chandler

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 banning pretextual traffic stops.

PETITION OF:

NAME:

Harriette L. Chandler

DISTRICT/ADDRESS:

First Worcester

SENATE No. 1546

By Ms. Chandler, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 1546) of Harriette L. Chandler for legislation to ban pretextual traffic stops. Public Safety and Homeland Security.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

An Act banning pretextual traffic stops.

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. Chapter 90 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2018 Official Edition,
2 is hereby amended by inserting after section 62, the following new section:-

3 Section 63.

4 A) The following words shall have the following meanings:

5 “Pretextual traffic stop” – A traffic stop in which a reasonable law enforcement officer
6 would not have made a stop without a pretextual motivation.

7 “Law enforcement officer”, a law enforcement officer as defined in section 220 of
8 chapter 6.

9 B) No law enforcement officer shall engage in a pretextual traffic stop.

10 C) No law enforcement officer shall ask questions during a traffic stop that are not
11 reasonably related to the purpose of the stop without independent justification.

12 D) No law enforcement officer shall search a vehicle or a person during a traffic stop
13 unless that search is reasonably related to the purpose of the stop, without independent
14 justification.