

SENATE No. 2204

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Joanne M. Comerford

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 facilitating better interactions between police officers and persons with autism spectrum disorder.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	
Joanne M. Comerford	Hampshire, Franklin and Worcester	
Mindy Domb	3rd Hampshire	1/18/2023
Michael O. Moore	Second Worcester	2/2/2023
Jack Patrick Lewis	7th Middlesex	2/7/2023
Michael D. Brady	Second Plymouth and Norfolk	2/7/2023
Patrick M. O'Connor	First Plymouth and Norfolk	2/8/2023
Carmine Lawrence Gentile	13th Middlesex	2/15/2023
James B. Eldridge	Middlesex and Worcester	2/15/2023
Bradley H. Jones, Jr.	20th Middlesex	2/23/2023
Hannah Kane	11th Worcester	3/1/2023

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By Ms. Comerford, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 2204) of Joanne M. Comerford, Mindy Domb, Michael O. Moore, Jack Patrick Lewis and other members of the General Court for legislation to facilitate better interactions between police officers and persons with autism spectrum disorder. Transportation.

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION
SEE SENATE, NO. 2285 OF 2021-2022.]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

—————
**In the One Hundred and Ninety-Third General Court
(2023-2024)**
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An Act facilitating better interactions between police officers and persons with autism spectrum disorder.

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 6C of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after
2 section 56 the following section:-

3 Section 56A. (a) The registry of motor vehicles, in consultation with the Massachusetts
4 Chiefs of Police Association and organizations that advocate for persons with autism spectrum
5 disorder, shall design and make available blue envelopes that:

6 (1) provide written information and guidance on the outside of the envelopes regarding
7 ways to enhance effective communication between a police officer and a person with autism
8 spectrum disorder; and

9 (2) are capable of holding a person's motor vehicle operator's license, registration and
10 insurance identification card.

11 Upon request by a person with autism spectrum disorder or if such person is a minor, the
12 person's parent or guardian, the registrar of motor vehicles shall provide a blue envelope
13 designed pursuant to this section to such person, parent or guardian.

14 (b) The guidance on the outside of the blue envelopes shall include an instruction to
15 attach the envelope to the driver's sunvisor on the side facing the driver for easy and safe access.

16 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect on January 1, 2024