HOUSE No. 669

The	Commonwealth of Massachusetts
	PRESENTED BY:
	Martin J. Walsh
To the Honorable Senate and Hous Court assembled:	e of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in General
The undersigned legislator	rs and/or citizens respectfully petition for the passage of the accompanying
An Act to	promote safety in the transportation of students.
	PETITION OF:
NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:
Martin J. Walsh	13th Suffolk

HOUSE No. 669

By Mr. Walsh of Boston, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 669) of Martin J. Walsh for legislation to require that school buses be equipped with a lap-shoulder belt system. Public Safety and Homeland Security.

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION SEE

□ HOUSE
□ , NO. *2301* OF 2009-2010.]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

An Act to promote safety in the transportation of students.

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. Section 7B of chapter 90 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2000
- 2 Official Edition, is hereby amended by adding after the word "seated" in line 16, the
- 3 following:— and, as of two years after the effective date of this act, lap-shoulder belts, which are
- 4 properly adjusted and fastened according to the manufacturer's instructions shall be worn by
- 5 every child riding as a passenger in said bus, and prior to said date if such bus is equipped with a
- 6 restraint system, no child shall ride as a passenger in such bus unless such child is wearing such
- 7 restraint system which is properly adjusted and fastened according to the manufacturer's
- 8 instructions.
- 9 SECTION 2. Said section 7B of said chapter 90, as so appearing, is hereby further 10 amended by adding after the word "practices" in line 113, the following:— which shall include 11 instruction in the use of lap-shoulder belts.
- SECTION 3. Said section 7B of said chapter 90, as so appearing, is hereby further
- 13 amended by adding after the word "year" in line 130, the following:—; (19) Every school bus
- 14 may, prior to two years after the effective date of this act, and shall, as of two years after the
- 15 effective date of this act, be equipped with a lap-shoulder belt system for each permanent seating
- 16 accommodation approved by the National Highway Transportation Safety Administration and
- 17 installed in compliance with United States motor vehicle D.O.T. safety standards, which shall be
- 18 fastened about each passenger at all times during vehicle operation.

19 SECTION 4. Section 7L of said chapter 90, as so appearing, is hereby amended by 20 adding after the word "seated" in line 5, the following:— and, as of two years after the effective date of this act, a lap-shoulder belt system with which is properly adjusted and fastened according to the manufacturer's instructions shall be worn by every child riding as a passenger in 23 said bus, and prior to said date if such bus is equipped with a safety restraint system, no child shall ride as a passenger in such bus unless such child is wearing a three point lap and shoulder restraint system which is properly adjusted and fastened according to the manufacturer's instructions. 26

- SECTION 5. Section 7AA of said chapter 90, as so appearing, is hereby amended by adding, in line 11 after the word "bus" the words:—, prior to two years after the effective date of 28 this act, unless such school bus is equipped with a lap-shoulder belt system.
- 30 SECTION 6. Section 4 of chapter 175E, of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2000 31 Official Edition, is hereby amended by adding the following section at the end thereof:—

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- 32 (f) For motor vehicle insurance rates for school buses, the commissioner shall develop 33 and promulgate a schedule of appropriate reductions in premium charges to account for the decreased risk of injury associated with the installation of a lap-shoulder belt system approved by the National Highway Transportation Safety Administration in any such bus so equipped. The 35 36 schedule shall be promulgated prior to two years after the effective date of this act, provided that 37 an owner of any school bus so equipped prior to the promulgation of said schedule may apply to 38 the commissioner and receive an appropriate reduction in the premium charge.
- 39 SECTION 7. No claim for damages shall arise from the failure of a school bus operator to ensure that a passenger of a school bus was wearing the restraint system prescribed by 40 Sections 7B, 7L and 7AA of Chapter 90 of the General Laws. 41