

HOUSE No. 3024

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Sean Garballey, (BY REQUEST)

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 to provide for variable speed limits on limited-access ways.

PETITION OF:

NAME:

Paul Schlichtman

DISTRICT/ADDRESS:

DATE ADDED:

1/18/2019

HOUSE No. 3024

By Mr. Garballey of Arlington (by request), a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 3024) of Paul Schlichtman relative to variable speed limits on limited-access ways. Transportation.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

**In the One Hundred and Ninety-First General Court
(2019-2020)**

An Act to provide for variable speed limits on limited-access ways.

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 is hereby amended by striking out Section
2 17A, as appearing in the 2016 Official Edition, and inserting after the first paragraph of Chapter
3 81, Section 7C, the following:

4 Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, the speed limit on a limited-
5 access way, including the Massachusetts Turnpike, shall be determined by an engineering and
6 safety study and by the eighty-fifth percentile speed of free-flowing traffic under ideal conditions
7 of a section of limited-access way, rounded to the nearest multiple of five miles per hour. A
8 speed limit established under this act shall not be posted at less than the fiftieth percentile speed
9 of free-flowing traffic under optimal conditions on the fastest portion of the limited-access way
10 segment for which the speed limit is being posted. If a limited-access way segment includes one
11 or more features with a design speed that is lower than the speed limit determined under this
12 section, advisory signs may be posted. Speed limits posted using a variable message sign may be

- 13 adjusted to compensate for congestion, weather conditions, or any other temporary factor that
- 14 has a bearing on a safe speed.