

HOUSE No. 3142

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Carl M. Sciortino, Jr. and Tricia Farley-Bouvier

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 relative to the establishment of a vehicle mileage user fee pilot program by the Massachusetts Department of Transportation.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:
<i>Carl M. Sciortino, Jr.</i>	<i>34th Middlesex</i>
<i>Tricia Farley-Bouvier</i>	<i>3rd Berkshire</i>
<i>Denise Andrews</i>	<i>2nd Franklin</i>
<i>Cory Atkins</i>	<i>14th Middlesex</i>
<i>Michael J. Barrett</i>	<i>Third Middlesex</i>
<i>Ruth B. Balse</i>	<i>12th Middlesex</i>
<i>Sonia Chang-Diaz</i>	<i>Second Suffolk</i>
<i>Thomas P. Conroy</i>	<i>13th Middlesex</i>
<i>Jonathan Hecht</i>	<i>29th Middlesex</i>
<i>Patricia D. Jehlen</i>	<i>Second Middlesex</i>
<i>Kay Khan</i>	<i>11th Middlesex</i>
<i>Jason M. Lewis</i>	<i>Fifth Middlesex</i>
<i>Denise Provost</i>	<i>27th Middlesex</i>
<i>Frank I. Smizik</i>	<i>15th Norfolk</i>
<i>Thomas M. Stanley</i>	<i>9th Middlesex</i>
<i>Benjamin Swan</i>	<i>11th Hampden</i>
<i>Chris Walsh</i>	<i>6th Middlesex</i>

Martha M. Walz

8th Suffolk

HOUSE No. 3142

By Mr. Sciortino of Medford, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 3142) of Carl M. Sciortino, Jr. and others relative to the establishment of a vehicle mileage user fee pilot program by the Department of Transportation. Transportation.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand Thirteen

An Act relative to the establishment of a vehicle mileage user fee pilot program by the Massachusetts Department of Transportation.

Whereas, The deferred operation of this act would tend to defeat its purpose, which is to immediately provide for reforms and improvements to the commonwealth's transportation system, therefore it is hereby declared to be an emergency law, necessary for the immediate preservation of the public convenience.

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. This bill is intended to help address the need for the commonwealth to
2 identify short- and long-term alternatives or supplements to the motor vehicle fuel tax, which is
3 particularly important given the diminishing value of the motor vehicle fuel tax, declining
4 supplies of conventional petroleum-based fuels, and increasingly fuel-efficient vehicles. The
5 commonwealth is uniquely positioned to become a leader in the advancement of the technology
6 and methods needed to develop and implement alternative ways to raise transportation revenue.

7 SECTION 2. PILOT PROGRAM.

8 (a) The department of transportation shall develop, implement, and oversee one or
9 more statewide pilot programs to assess owners of motor vehicles a user fee that is based on the
10 number of miles traveled on roads in this state by those motor vehicles.

11 (b) The pilot programs shall include at least 1,000 volunteers across the
12 commonwealth who are representative of drivers of trucks, passenger and commercial vehicles
13 and throughout the commonwealth, who will have on-board vehicle-mileage-counting equipment

14 added to their vehicles, administered in a manner the department of transportation deems
15 appropriate.

16 (c) The pilot programs shall test the reliability, ease of use, cost, and public
17 acceptance of technology and methods for:

18 (1) counting the number of miles traveled by particular vehicles;

19 (2) reporting the number of miles traveled by particular vehicles; and

20 (3) collecting payments from participants in the pilot programs.

21 (d) The pilot programs shall also analyze and evaluate the ability of different
22 technologies and methods to:

23 (1) protect the integrity of data collected and reported;

24 (2) ensure drivers' privacy; and

25 (3) vary pricing based on the time of driving, type of road, proximity to transit,
26 vehicle fuel efficiency, participation in car-sharing or pooling, or income of the driver.

27 (e) The pilot programs shall last at least one year.

28 (f) The department of transportation may refund motor vehicle fuel taxes paid by
29 participants in pilot programs under this Act or may otherwise compensate participants in pilot
30 programs under this Act. Identifying information about the pilot programs shall not be public and
31 shall be exempt from disclosure under M.G.L. c. 66, s. 10.

32 SECTION 3. REPORT. Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, no
33 later than two years from the passage of this act, the department of transportation shall report to
34 the general court the initial result of the pilot study, including the feasibility of permanently
35 assessing a vehicle mileage user fee, an evaluation of the impacts of such a fee on the economy,
36 the environment, and traffic congestion, a comparison to other potential alternatives or
37 supplements to the gas tax, and its initial recommendations together with legislation necessary to
38 carry its recommendations into effect by filing the same with the clerks of the senate and house
39 of representatives, and to the joint committee on transportation.