

SENATE No. 1987

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Karen E. Spilka

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 tolls on the roadways of the Commonwealth.

PETITION OF:

NAME:

Karen E. Spilka

DISTRICT/ADDRESS:

Second Middlesex and Norfolk

SENATE No. 1987

By Ms. Spilka, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 1987) of Karen E. Spilka for legislation relative to tolls on the roadways of the Commonwealth. Transportation.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

**In the One Hundred and Ninetieth General Court
(2017-2018)**

An Act relative to tolls on the roadways of the Commonwealth.

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 3 of chapter 6C of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2014
2 Official Edition, is hereby amended by striking out , in lines 68 and 69, the words "fix and revise
3 from time to time and charge and collect tolls for transit over the metropolitan highway system
4 and the turnpike" inserting in place thereof the following:- "charge and collect tolls for transit
5 over the metropolitan highway system and the turnpike; said toll rates shall not be increased
6 from the rates in place on January 1, 2017".

7 SECTION 2. Subsection (a) of section 13 of said chapter 6C is hereby amended by
8 striking out, in line 1 the words " fix and revise" and by inserting in place thereof the following:-
9 "reduce the".

10 SECTION 3. Said subsection (a) of said section 13 of said Chapter 6C is hereby further
11 amended by striking out, in lines 5 to 14, inclusive, the words "Such tolls shall be so fixed and
12 adjusted as to provide, at a minimum, funds sufficient with other revenues, if any, to pay: (i)

13 costs incurred in furtherance of this chapter related to the turnpike including, but not limited to,
14 the cost of owning, maintaining, repairing, reconstructing, improving, rehabilitating, policing,
15 using, administering, controlling and operating the turnpike; and (ii) the principal of, redemption
16 premium, if any, and the interest on notes or bonds relating to the turnpike as the same shall
17 become due and payable and to create and maintain reserves established for any of the
18 department's corporate purposes."

19 SECTION 4. Subsection (b) of said section 13 of said chapter 6C is hereby amended by
20 striking out, in lines 43 and 44, the words "fix and revise" and by inserting in place thereof the
21 following:- "reduce the".

22 SECTION 5. Said subsection (b) of said section 13 of said chapter 6C is hereby further
23 amended by striking out, in lines 48 to 58, inclusive, the words "Such tolls shall be so fixed and
24 adjusted as to provide, at a minimum, funds sufficient with other revenues, if any, to pay: (i)
25 costs incurred in furtherance of this chapter related to the metropolitan highway system
26 including, but not limited to, the cost of owning, maintaining, repairing, reconstructing,
27 improving, rehabilitating, policing, using, administering, controlling and operating the turnpike;
28 and (ii) the principal of, redemption premium, if any, and the interest on notes or bonds relating
29 to the metropolitan highway system as the same shall become due and payable and to create and
30 maintain reserves established for any of the department's corporate purposes."

31 SECTION 6. Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, the
32 Massachusetts Department of Transportation shall study and report on the feasibility of
33 establishing all-electric tolling along state and interstate highways of the commonwealth that are
34 not currently subject to a toll. The report shall examine the several options available to the

35 commonwealth to pursue additional tolls, including, but not limited to: (i) placement of all-
36 electronic tolling gantries on roads in the commonwealth that are not currently tolled; (ii) seeking
37 a federal waiver for the placement of border tolls; (iii) reaching interstate or regional agreements
38 for the placement of additional tolls; and (iv) the commonwealth's ability to establish border tolls
39 in the event of proposed changes to federal law on interstate highway tolling. The department
40 shall file its report along with any legislative recommendations with the house and senate
41 committees on ways and means and the joint committee on transportation on or before December
42 31, 2017.