

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 271**

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**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

PRESENTED BY:

*Alyson M. Sullivan*

*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 studying best practices for ensuring the safety of blind persons.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	DATE ADDED:
<i>Alyson M. Sullivan</i>	<i>7th Plymouth</i>	<i>1/28/2021</i>
<i>Patrick Joseph Kearney</i>	<i>4th Plymouth</i>	<i>1/28/2021</i>
<i>Brian M. Ashe</i>	<i>2nd Hampden</i>	<i>1/28/2021</i>
<i>Timothy R. Whelan</i>	<i>1st Barnstable</i>	<i>2/2/2021</i>
<i>Bud L. Williams</i>	<i>11th Hampden</i>	<i>2/3/2021</i>
<i>Colleen M. Garry</i>	<i>36th Middlesex</i>	<i>2/11/2021</i>
<i>Steven G. Xiarhos</i>	<i>5th Barnstable</i>	<i>2/23/2021</i>
<i>Michael J. Soter</i>	<i>8th Worcester</i>	<i>2/23/2021</i>
<i>Mathew J. Muratore</i>	<i>1st Plymouth</i>	<i>2/24/2021</i>
<i>Angelo L. D'Emilia</i>	<i>8th Plymouth</i>	<i>2/24/2021</i>
<i>David Allen Robertson</i>	<i>19th Middlesex</i>	<i>2/25/2021</i>

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 271**

By Ms. Sullivan of Abington, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 271) of Alyson M. Sullivan and others for legislation to establish a special commission to study and determine best practices to ensure the safety of blind persons. Children, Families and Persons with Disabilities.

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

**In the One Hundred and Ninety-Second General Court  
(2021-2022)**

An Act relative to studying best practices for ensuring the safety of blind persons.

*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. (a) Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, there shall  
2 be a special commission established to study and determine best practices to ensure the safety of  
3 blind persons in public walkways and intersections. The commission, in conjunction with the  
4 Massachusetts Commission for the Blind, shall be tasked with, but not be limited to, reviewing  
5 the following: existing roadway and traffic policies aimed at ensuring the safety of the blind and  
6 visually impaired; current use of accessible pedestrian signals; and new technology available to  
7 improve upon the safety of blind and visually impaired persons, particularly in cities and highly  
8 congested areas.

9 (b) The commission shall consist of 9 members: the commissioner of the Massachusetts  
10 commission for the blind, or a designee; the chief executive officer of the Massachusetts  
11 department of transportation, or a designee; the commissioner of the department of conservation  
12 and recreation, or a designee; the executive director of the disability law center, or a designee;

13 the secretary of the executive office of public safety and security, or a designee, and four people  
14 to be appointed by the governor, two of whom must be advocates for the blind and visually 3 of  
15 3 impaired community, and two of whom must be experts in roadway safety and accessibility  
16 technology.

17 (c) The commission shall file its report and findings, along with any recommendations for  
18 legislation or executive action, with the secretary of administration and finance, and the chairs of  
19 committees as appropriate in light of the recommendations, which may include but shall not be  
20 limited to the joint committee on children, families, and persons with disabilities, the joint  
21 committee on transportation, the joint committee on public safety and homeland security, the  
22 chair of the senate and house committees on bonding, capital expenditures and state assets, and  
23 the clerks of the senate and the house of representatives within 1 year of the passage of this act.