

HOUSE No. 3449

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Lori A. Ehrlich

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 beneficiary designation on motor vehicle registration.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	DATE ADDED:
<i>Lori A. Ehrlich</i>	<i>8th Essex</i>	<i>1/29/2021</i>
<i>David Allen Robertson</i>	<i>19th Middlesex</i>	<i>2/26/2021</i>
<i>Brian W. Murray</i>	<i>10th Worcester</i>	<i>2/26/2021</i>

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By Ms. Ehrlich of Marblehead, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 3449) of Lori A. Ehrlich, David Allen Robertson and Brian W. Murray relative to beneficiary designation on motor vehicle registrations. Transportation.

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION
SEE HOUSE, NO. 3009 OF 2019-2020.]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

An Act relative to beneficiary designation on motor vehicle registration.

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 2 of chapter 90, as appearing in the 2016 Official Edition of the
2 General Laws, is hereby amended by inserting after the word “commonwealth.”, in line 78, the
3 following paragraph:-

4 If a motor vehicle is owned by 1 owner who is a natural person, the owner may designate,
5 in writing in a space provided on the certificate of registration for such motor vehicle, a
6 beneficiary who shall assume ownership of the motor vehicle after the death of the owner and
7 upon the making of an application pursuant to this paragraph. Should the owner seek to change
8 or remove a designated beneficiary from the certificate of registration for the owner’s vehicle,
9 the owner shall submit an application to do so with the registrar. Said application shall be
10 accompanied by the original certificate of registration in which the beneficiary is designated and

11 such proof of the owner's identity as the registrar may require. No fee shall be charged for the
12 process of changing or removing a beneficiary. The owner making the beneficiary designation
13 shall have all rights of ownership of such motor vehicle during the owner's life and the
14 beneficiary shall have no rights in such motor vehicle until such time as the owner dies and an
15 application is made pursuant to this paragraph. Not later than 60 days after the death of the
16 owner, the beneficiary may make application to the registrar for the issuance of a certificate of
17 title and a certificate of registration for such motor vehicle in the beneficiary's name. The
18 application shall be accompanied by: (1) the original certificate of registration in which the
19 beneficiary is designated pursuant to this paragraph; (2) a death certificate for the deceased
20 owner; (3) such proof of the beneficiary's identity as the registrar may require; and (4) any
21 applicable fees for registration, title and number plates as required pursuant to this chapter. If the
22 beneficiary fails to make such application within the time period specified in this paragraph, the
23 beneficiary shall have no right to obtain ownership of and title to such motor vehicle pursuant to
24 this paragraph after the expiration of such time period. The right of the beneficiary to obtain
25 ownership of and title to such motor vehicle pursuant to this paragraph shall be subordinate to
26 the rights of each lienholder whose security interest in such motor vehicle is recorded pursuant to
27 chapter 90D. The registrar may adopt regulations to implement this paragraph.