

HOUSE No. 3505

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Daniel J. Hunt

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 protect vulnerable road users by requiring certain vehicles to be equipped with side under-ride guards and blind spot mirrors.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	DATE ADDED:
<i>Daniel J. Hunt</i>	<i>13th Suffolk</i>	<i>2/16/2021</i>
<i>Elizabeth A. Malia</i>	<i>11th Suffolk</i>	<i>2/26/2021</i>

HOUSE No. 3505

By Mr. Hunt of Boston, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 3505) of Daniel J. Hunt and Elizabeth A. Malia for legislation to protect vulnerable road users by requiring certain vehicles to be equipped with side under-ride guards and blind spot mirrors. Transportation.

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION
SEE HOUSE, NO. 3058 OF 2019-2020.]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

An Act to protect vulnerable road users by requiring certain vehicles to be equipped with side under-ride guards and blind spot mirrors.

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 1 of Chapter 90 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2016
2 Official Edition, is hereby amended by inserting after the definition of “Bus or motor bus” the
3 following definition:-

4 “Convex mirror,” a mirror on the front of a vehicle which enables the operator to see all
5 points on an imaginary horizontal line which is 3 feet above the road and is 1 foot directly
6 forward from the midpoint of the front of the motor vehicle and extends the full width of the
7 motor vehicle.

8 SECTION 2: Said section 1 is hereby further amended by inserting after the definition of
9 “Killed in action,” the following definition:-

10 “Lateral protective device,” an apparatus installed between the front and rear wheels to
11 help prevent injuries to unprotected road users, particularly from falling underneath the vehicle.

12 SECTION 3. Section 7 of said chapter 90, as so appearing, is hereby amended by
13 inserting after the third paragraph the following paragraph:-

14 Except in the case of an ambulance, fire apparatus, low-speed vehicle, or tractor, every
15 Class 3 and above motor vehicle, which has a gross vehicle weight rating (GVWR) of 10,000
16 pounds and higher having a gross weight of more than 10,000 pounds, and every trailer having
17 an unladen weight of more than 10,000 pounds, and every semi-trailer unit having a gross weight
18 of more than 26,000 pounds, and every conventional cab configuration in which more than half
19 of the engine length is forward of the foremost point of the windshield base and the steering
20 wheel hub is in the forward quarter of the vehicle length operated in or upon any way shall be
21 equipped with a lateral protective device and a convex mirror, as defined by section 1 of chapter
22 90 of the General Laws. The registrar shall adopt standards and specifications for the size,
23 design, and mounting of lateral protective devices and convex mirrors, in a manner consistent
24 with the Volpe side guard specifications, Recommended Standard DOT-VNTSC-OSTR-16-05.
25 The registrar may provide alternative means of compliance with the convex mirror requirement,
26 including cameras and infrared devices. The Registrar shall also determine a phased-in schedule
27 for compliance with this paragraph, provided, however, that such phase-in shall begin no later
28 than July 1, 2022.

29 SECTION 4. This act shall take effect upon passage, provided, however, that the
30 deadlines for compliance with this act shall be established pursuant to section 3.