

HOUSE No.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Michael S. Day, (BY REQUEST)

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 improve pedestrian and vehicular safety.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	DATE ADDED:
<i>Vincent L. Dixon</i>	<i>60 Lake Street Unit N, Winchester MA 01890</i>	<i>1/20/2023</i>

HOUSE No.

By Representative Day of Stoneham (by request), a petition (subject to Joint Rule 12) of Vincent L. Dixon for legislation to improve pedestrian and vehicular safety. Transportation.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

**In the One Hundred and Ninety-Third General Court
(2023-2024)**

An Act to improve pedestrian and vehicular safety.

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. The Massachusetts General Laws are hereby amended by inserting the
2 following new chapter:

3 An Act to improve pedestrian and vehicular safety.

4 PREAMBLE

5 Whereas, Ms. Anna LaViolette, a celebrated, and well-regarded resident of Winchester,
6 Mass., was hit while at a crosswalk, in her local community, and died as a result of the accident;
7 and many individuals have thought that action should be taken, to increase pedestrian, and traffic
8 safety; this Act, is to be named, in her honor: “Anna’s Law.”

9 1.) The safety of pedestrians, and vehicular traffic, is a serious policy concern. Properly
10 marked crosswalks, vehicle lanes, and other markings, help to protect pedestrians, vehicles, and
11 improve general public safety. Due to the normal process of weathering, and volumes of traffic,

12 the visibility of such markings deteriorates over time, and declines in the value of performing, its
13 intended purposes.

14 2.) Therefore, this Statute, sets standards, which are to be regularly reviewed, enforced,
15 incentivized, and when possible, assisted by the Commonwealth, in keeping these markings to a
16 sufficient standard to perform their important role in public safety.

17 3.) The Massachusetts Department of Transportation, shall establish particular standards,
18 that are suitable for safety of all markings, on roadways, streets, and other traffic surfaces.

19 The Mass DOT, should be encouraged, to provide modest financial incentives, for all
20 local jurisdictions to keep these visual standards, in current, sufficient, and even peak conditions.

21 4.) Measurement of Lumens, by devices that measure reflectivity, and/or can be
22 measured by light meters, and/or other standards; shall be further researched, and enumerated, in
23 a formal listing or document: “Pedestrian and Traffic Markings Safety Maintenance,” to be
24 established by regulation; with suitable public input, enforceable on all state, regional, and
25 municipal roadways, and traffic surfaces, in the interest of health and safety.

26 5.) Roadway, and traffic surfaces, shall be measured, and ordered to be kept at a
27 particular level of reflectivity, and visibility, in all areas. All local residents, may notify their
28 local DPW offices, and/or the DOT of Massachusetts, when they believe that any of these
29 markings, especially pedestrian crosswalks, and busy intersections, have markings that have
30 deteriorated below a level, that would be useful in protecting pedestrians, and facilitating safer
31 traffic.

32 6.) Municipalities may, and should be encouraged to, establish local hotline numbers for
33 collecting such complaints, for prompt response.

34 7.) The Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Department of Transportation, shall also
35 assess the costs of keeping such markings up to the needed level of safety, and recommend what
36 appropriations might be shared by the Commonwealth, in training local municipal staff, to keep
37 these markings as needed, to the legal standards.