

SENATE No. 522

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Jason M. Lewis, (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 consider adoption of aspects of the German Green Dot Waste Reduction Standards.

PETITION OF:

NAME:

DISTRICT/ADDRESS:

Vincent Lawrence Dixon

SENATE No. 522

By Mr. Lewis (by request), a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 522) of Vincent Lawrence Dixon for legislation to consider adoption of aspects of the German Green Dot Waste Reduction Standards. Environment and Natural Resources.

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION
SEE SENATE, NO. 578 OF 2021-2022.]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

An Act to consider adoption of aspects of the German Green Dot Waste Reduction Standards.

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 I – LEGISLATIVE PURPOSE

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

4 An Act to Consider Adoption of Aspects of the German Green Dot Program Waste
5 Reduction Standards.

6 PURPOSE – It is significant to the general, and specific, public health of the residents,
7 businesses, and other enterprises that live, and operate in The Commonwealth of Massachusetts,
8 that there are various problems arising from, the creation of various forms of waste, and distinct
9 constraints on the disposal of waste, and trash of various kinds. This is especially true in

10 congested, urban areas, but also has known, and unknown, effects on the general environment,
11 whether watersheds, air, wetlands, useful lands of all kinds, and oceans. In recent years, this
12 situation has become more severe, and these are a series of problems that can be addressed in
13 various ways.

14 SECTION II – ANALYSIS

15 1.) In dealing with various forms of waste processing, demand side reduction can, and
16 must be, an important part of overall waste management policies.

17 2.) What is known as the “German Green Dot Program” was established in the 1990s in
18 the Federal Republic of Germany, and has contributed in significant ways to improvement of
19 waste management processes. While recycling is valuable, the reduction of packaging waste, by
20 improved packaging design, and direct conceptual design elements, by manufacturers, and
21 delivery services, can be effective, as part of a broader set of policies.

22 3.) The provisions of this statute, are adopted, for the purposes of consistency, of
23 manufacturing, retail, and other commercial activities, and transactions, across the
24 Commonwealth. They recognize that while local ordinances have value, that there should be a
25 degree of consistency, actions, and improved recommendations, therefore, for environmentally
26 friendly policies, across the entire Commonwealth.

27 SECTION III – ESTABLISHMENT OF A MASSACHUSETTS CLIMATE ACTION 28 ADVISORY COUNCIL (MCAAC)

29 4a.) By this statute, a Massachusetts Climate Action Advisory Council (MCAAC) is
30 established, to be made up of 21 members, drawn from a suitable cross-section of Massachusetts

31 residents, environmentally concerned active organizations, scientific experts, and others to
32 consider these standards, and other similar, and appropriate matters. This body shall also liaison,
33 and intersect, with local municipal, and regional climate action advisory groups.

34 4b.) The Massachusetts Climate Advisory Council (MCAAC) shall operate under the
35 Department of Conservation Services (DCS); and shall draw membership, from the following
36 segments: Three (3) scientific experts in waste management, and packaging reduction
37 engineering; three (3) scientific experts in waste management, and disposal; three (3) members
38 drawn from environmental education and advocacy groups; three (3) members of the House of
39 Representatives; three (3) members of the State Senate; three (3) members from the business
40 sector; and three (3) members from the field of education.

41 SECTION IV – ADDITIONAL COOPERATIVE AUTHORITIES

42 Various provisions of this statute, and additional proposed regulations, may be utilized, at
43 the discretion of local legislative, and/or executive authorities.