

HOUSE No. 2585

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 relative to police chief reform and improvement – certification act.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	DATE ADDED:
<i>Vincent Lawrence Dixon</i>	<i>60 Lake Street Unit N, Winchester, MA 01890</i>	<i>1/17/2025</i>

HOUSE No. 2585

By Representative Day of Stoneham (by request), a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 2585) of Vincent Lawrence Dixon relative to police chief reform, improvement and certification. Public Safety and Homeland Security.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

**In the One Hundred and Ninety-Fourth General Court
(2025-2026)**

An Act relative to police chief reform and improvement – certification act.

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 A Chapter for Police Chief Reform, And Improvement.

4 All persons, in order to be qualified to be a Police Chief, shall have a distinct
5 Certification Process, that is distinct, from the Police Officer Certification Process.

6 There shall be a distinct Police Chief Standards and Accreditation Committee. This
7 Committee shall develop, and implement, such procedures.

8 SECTION 1A.) Membership of such committee, shall be determined by appropriate
9 consultation, and regulations, with the Executive Office of Public Safety and Security; the Office
10 of Governor, and the Attorney General. The Membership shall consist of no more than five (5)

11 individuals, who shall include at least one (1) individual with substantial experience, as a Police
12 Chief, and one (1) individual representing the general public.

13 SECTION 2. The Schedule for Police Chiefs, and those qualifying for such status, by a
14 distinct Police Chief Standards and Accreditation Committee, shall be:

- 15 • Temporary License (Time Limited to One Year)
- 16 • Provisional License (Time Limited to Two Years)
- 17 • Initial License (Time Limited to Three Years)
- 18 • Professional License (Time Limited to Five Years)

19 SECTION 3. The Balances, that must be evaluated, in the context of, the complexity of
20 Police Reform, include these needs:

- 21 • To recognize the raising of the level, and competence, of Police Officers.
- 22 • To distinctly raise the level of Police Chiefs, who have additional needs for
23 breadth of skill, training, competence, and management abilities.
- 24 • To provide a reasonable period for qualifying competent officers, who may wish
25 to seek appropriate promotion.
- 26 • To provide a reasonable period for qualifying additionally competent Police
27 Chiefs.
- 28 • To recognize appropriate values, in updating competent Police Chiefs, and their
29 honorable positions.

30 SECTION 4. In general, in recognizing the need for these long overdue reforms, actions
31 may, and likely should, reduce to the absolute possible minimum, the unfortunate prevalence of
32 various incompetencies; and remove such individuals as do not meet reasonable standards;
33 whether they be Police Officers, or Police Chiefs. In so doing, this legislation seeks to further
34 improve, the professional quality of Police Chiefs, and the appropriate respect that such
35 professionals should have, for such opportunity of enjoyment, in the communities, for which
36 they serve.

37 SECTION 4A.) Training Availabilities & Requirements. The process of regulation, and
38 standards, shall include recommendations, and standards for training availabilities, and
39 requirements, developed over time, and with a spirit of improving professional capabilities.

40 SECTION 5. While this may lead to the selected removal of some long-time Police
41 Officers, or Police Chiefs, the cost of any reform, must include the capacity, to move on, to a
42 new, fresh page of progress, without retaining significant flaws, that should not have been
43 permitted. This set of circumstances, can certainly be appropriately adjusted for, by appropriate
44 retirements, through existing provisions of Retirement Law.