HOUSE DOCKET, NO. 2298 FILED ON: 1/16/2025

HOUSE . . . . . No. 287

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Alyson M. Sullivan-Almeida

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 studying best practices for ensuring the safety of blind persons.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	DATE ADDED:
Alyson M. Sullivan-Almeida	*7th Plymouth*	*1/16/2025*

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HOUSE . . . . . No. 287

By Representative Sullivan-Almeida of Abington, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 287) of Alyson M. Sullivan-Almeida for legislation to establish a special commission to study and determine best practices to ensure the safety of blind persons. Children, Families and Persons with Disabilities.

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION
SEE HOUSE, NO. *220* OF 2023-2024.]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

An Act relative to studying best practices for ensuring the safety of blind persons.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

(a) Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, there shall be a special commission established to study and determine best practices to ensure the safety of blind persons in public walkways and intersections. The commission, in conjunction with the Massachusetts Commission for the Blind, shall be tasked with, but not be limited to, reviewing the following: existing roadway and traffic policies aimed at ensuring the safety of the blind and visually impaired; current use of accessible pedestrian signals; and new technology available to improve upon the safety of blind and visually impaired persons, particularly in cities and highly congested areas.

9 (b) The commission shall consist of 9 members: the commissioner of the Massachusetts
10 commission for the blind, or a designee; the chief executive officer of the Massachusetts
11 department of transportation, or a designee; the commissioner of the department of conservation
12 and recreation, or a designee; the executive director of the disability law center, or a designee;
13 the secretary of the executive office of public safety and security, or a designee, and four people
14 to be appointed by the governor, two of whom must be advocates for the blind and visually 3 of
15 3 impaired community, and two of whom must be experts in roadway safety and accessibility
16 technology.

17 (c) The commission shall file its report and findings, along with any recommendations for
18 legislation or executive action, with the secretary of administration and finance, and the chairs of
19 committees as appropriate in light of the recommendations, which may include but shall not be
20 limited to the joint committee on children, families, and persons with disabilities, the joint
21 committee on transportation, the joint committee on public safety and homeland security, the
22 chair of the senate and house committees on bonding, capital expenditures and state assets, and
23 the clerks of the senate and the house of representatives within 1 year of the passage of this act.