

**HOUSE . . . . . No.**

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**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

PRESENTED BY:

*Natalie M. Blais*

*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 unpaved roads.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	DATE ADDED:
<i>Natalie M. Blais</i>	<i>1st Franklin</i>	<i>1/15/2025</i>

**HOUSE . . . . . No.**

[Pin Slip]

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION  
SEE HOUSE, NO. 3270 OF 2023-2024.]

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

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

An Act relative to unpaved roads.

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

1           The Massachusetts Department of Transportation, in conjunction with the Executive  
2 Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs, shall convene a working group to identify and  
3 evaluate the safe, efficient and environmentally sound maintenance and improvement of unpaved  
4 (dirt and gravel) roads and paved low volume roads (LVR) in the Commonwealth.

5           The working group shall, at a minimum: develop a database of both unpaved roads and  
6 paved LVRs; analyze the unpaved road miles and paved LVR miles per municipality and county  
7 in relation to other road miles in the same municipality and county; collect data on the annual  
8 maintenance and improvement costs for unpaved roads and paved LVR over the previous five  
9 years for each municipality located in a county whose unpaved road miles total over 20% of total  
10 county roadway mileage; examine the potential relationship between climate change and  
11 maintenance and improvement costs for unpaved roads and paved LVRs; identify existing

12 funding streams in Massachusetts available to municipalities to maintain and improve unpaved  
13 roads and paved LVRs; identify potential funding gaps to support the safe, efficient and  
14 environmentally sound maintenance and improvement of unpaved and paved LVRs in the  
15 Commonwealth; compile and review existing studies and reports on unpaved roads and paved  
16 LVRs in the Commonwealth; determine the feasibility of developing a condition rating system  
17 for unpaved roads and paved LVRs; determine the feasibility of developing statewide standards  
18 for unpaved roads; research national best practices on the safe, efficient and environmentally  
19 sound maintenance and improvement for unpaved roads and paved LVRs including existing  
20 state-funded maintenance programs.

21           The working group shall include, but shall not be limited to: the secretary of  
22 transportation or a designee, who shall serve as co-chair; the secretary of energy and  
23 environmental affairs or a designee, who shall serve as co-chair; the commissioner of revenue or  
24 a designee; the secretary of public safety and security or a designee; a designee of the rural  
25 policy advisory commission; two designees of the Massachusetts Highway Association; a  
26 designee of the Massachusetts Municipal Association, Inc.; a transportation planner from a MA  
27 Transportation Planning Organization; a designee of the University of Massachusetts Amherst  
28 Transportation Center; and a designee of the Massachusetts Association of Conservation  
29 Commissions, Inc. The working group shall hold its first meeting not later than January 1, 2026.

30           The working group shall submit its findings to the clerks of the house of representatives  
31 and the senate, the chairs of the house and senate committees on ways and means, the chairs of  
32 the joint committee on environment, natural resources and agriculture and the chairs of the joint  
33 committee on transportation not later than June 30, 2026.