

SENATE No.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Paul W. Mark

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 safety.

PETITION OF:

NAME:

Paul W. Mark

DISTRICT/ADDRESS:

*Berkshire, Hampden, Franklin and
Hampshire*

SENATE No.

[Pin Slip]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

An Act to improve pedestrian 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. Section 2 of Chapter 85 of the General Laws as appearing in the 2022
2 Official Edition, is hereby amended by inserting in line 88 after the word “prohibited” the
3 following line:-

4 “The department’s manual must indicate that where pedestrians who walk slower than
5 3.5 feet per second, or pedestrians who use wheelchairs, routinely use the crosswalk, a walking
6 speed of less than 3.5 feet per second should be considered in determining the pedestrian
7 clearance time. The department will be responsible for promulgating regulations that direct a
8 municipality to:

9 (a.) create a list of locations within their boundaries that are heavily used by pedestrians
10 who are likely to have: (i.) a walking speed lower than 3.5 feet per second as determined by
11 current research, (ii.) a slower than average walking speed due to a physical mobility issue, and
12 (iii.) slower walking speeds resulting from transporting, assisting, or conveying another person
13 through a signalized crosswalk.

14 (b.) require that locations contained in said list, where there are signalized crosswalks
15 regularly in use, account for the slower walking speed of pedestrians by adjusting signal walk
16 clearance times to a reasonable degree to allow for pedestrians to safely complete a crossing."