

# Joint Committee on Consumer Protection and Professional Licensure

## 2025-2026 (194<sup>th</sup>) Bill Summary

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**BILL NUMBER:** H474

**TITLE:** An Act relative to vehicle recalls

**SPONSOR(S):** Walsh, Thomas

**HEARING DATE:** April 14, 2025

**REPORTING DEADLINE:** June 13, 2025

### **PRIOR HISTORY**

(2023-2024): H4277 - New draft of S220 and H400; Bill reported favorably by Committee and referred to the committee on House Ways and Means.

### **CURRENT LAW**

Section 7A of Chapter 90 of the General Laws governs periodic inspections of motor vehicles.

### **SUMMARY**

This bill seeks to require the Registry of Motor Vehicles to provide information from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration to the owner of the motor vehicle prior to mailing motor vehicle registration renewal notices or issuing vehicle registration relative to such vehicle's open manufacture recalls. Notice must specify that: (i) the vehicle contains a non-remedied safety defect, and a description of the defect; (ii) a motor vehicle franchise dealer of the manufacturer shall remedy such defect free of charge; and (iii) registration will be denied without the remedy of the defect unless no replacement parts are available or if the owner or lessee fails to remedy an open recall due to circumstances beyond their control or undue hardship.

Vehicle owners would receive such notice from the Registrar between 50 and 80 days prior to the registration expiration.

Nothing in this section shall alter the liability of any manufacturer or motor vehicle franchise dealer under common law.