

HOUSE No.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Matthew C. Patrick

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 passage of the accompanying bill:

An Act establishing a primary seat belt law.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:
Matthew C. Patrick	3rd Barnstable
James B. Eldridge	Middlesex and Worcester

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION
SEE HOUSE, NO. 3478 OF 2007-2008.]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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In the Year Two Thousand and Nine
—————

AN ACT ESTABLISHING A PRIMARY SEAT BELT LAW.

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 13A of chapter 90 of the general Laws, as appearing in the 2002 Official Edition, is
2 hereby amended by striking the seventh paragraph beginning on the line 23 and inserting in place
3 thereof the following:-

4 Any person who operates a motor vehicle without a safety belt, and any person sixteen years of
5 age or over who rides as a passenger in a motor vehicle without wearing a safety belt in violation of this
6 section, shall be subject to a fine of twenty-five dollars. Any operator of a motor vehicle shall be subject
7 to an additional fine of twenty-five dollars for each person under the age of sixteen and not younger
8 than twelve who is a passenger in said motor vehicle and not wearing a safety belt. The provisions of
9 this section shall be enforced by law enforcement agencies when an operator of a motor vehicle or
10 passenger who rides in the front seat is not wearing a safety belt in violation of motor vehicle laws. A
11 police officer may not search or inspect a motor vehicle, its contents, the driver, or a passenger solely
12 because of a violation of this section. For a period of 180 days following the effective day of this act, any
13 law enforcement official who stops a motorist solely because of failure to wear a safety belt shall not
14 issue a citation, but shall only issue a written or verbal warning.

15 SECTION 2. Chapter 228 of the Acts of 2000 is hereby amended by adding at the end the
16 following new section:- The registry of motor