HOUSE . . . . No.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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PRESENTED BY:

Karyn E. Polito

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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 relative to hidden compartments in vehicles operated in the commonwealth.

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PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:
Karyn E. Polito	11th Worcester

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand and Nine

AN ACT RELATIVE TO HIDDEN COMPARTMENTS IN VEHICLES OPERATED IN THE COMMONWEALTH.

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: Chapter 90 of the Massachusetts General Laws is hereby amended by adding
2   after Section 9D the following section 9E: No person shall manufacture, sell, offer for sale or
3   trade, or operate a vehicle, in the commonwealth equipped with compartments designed for the
4   purpose of concealing contraband. 'Vehicle' includes, but is not limited to, cars, trucks, buses,
5   motorcycles, bicycles, aircrafts, helicopters, boats, ships, yachts, and other vessels.
6   'Compartments' means any enclosure that is intended and designed to be used to conceal, hide,
7   or prevent discovery by law enforcement officers of the compartment, or its contents, and which
8   is integrated into or attached to a vehicle. The term 'compartments' includes, but is not limited
9   to:

10   (i)   False, altered, or modified fuel tanks;
11   (ii)   Any original factory equipment on a vehicle that has been modified to conceal,
12   hide, or prevent discovery of its contents; and
13   (iii)   Any compartment, space, or box that is added or attached to existing
14   compartments, spaces, or boxes integrated into or attached to a vehicle.
15   The discovery of contraband in such a compartment shall be evidence of a violation of this
16   section. Violations of any provisions of this section shall be punishable by a fine, suspension of
17   operator's license or imprisonment.