SENATE DOCKET, NO. 1673 FILED ON: 1/18/2013

SENATE . . . . . No. 1712

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Bruce E. Tarr

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:

An Act to enhance the license plate system of the Commonwealth.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:
Bruce E. Tarr	*First Essex and Middlesex*
Theodore C. Speliotis	*13th Essex*
Carlo Basile	*1st Suffolk*
John D. Keenan	*7th Essex*
Kevin G. Honan	*17th Suffolk*
Anne M. Gobi	*5th Worcester*
Stephen L. DiNatale	*3rd Worcester*
William N. Brownsberger	*Second Suffolk and Middlesex*
Richard J. Ross	*Norfolk, Bristol and Middlesex*
Michael O. Moore	*Second Worcester*
Paul McMurtry	*11th Norfolk*
James E. Timilty	*Bristol and Norfolk*
Danielle W. Gregoire	*4th Middlesex*
Bradley H. Jones, Jr.	*20th Middlesex*
Ann-Margaret Ferrante	*5th Essex*
Joan Lovely	*Second Essex*
Denise Andrews	*2nd Franklin*
Todd M. Smola	*1st Hampden*

Katherine M. Clark	*Fifth Middlesex*
Nicholas A. Boldyga	*3rd Hampden*
Robert L. Hedlund	*Plymouth and Norfolk*
Anthony W. Petruccelli	*First Suffolk and Middlesex*
Jerald A. Parisella	*6th Essex*
Bradford Hill	*4th Essex*
Sal N. DiDomenico	*Middlesex and Suffolk*
Aaron Michlewitz	*3rd Suffolk*
Jonathan Hecht	*29th Middlesex*
James J. Dwyer	*30th Middlesex*
Michael R. Knapik	*Second Hampden and Hampshire*
James T. Welch	*Hampden*
Patricia D. Jehlen	*Second Middlesex*
Nick Collins	*4th Suffolk*
Gale D. Candaras	*First Hampden and Hampshire*
John P. Fresolo	*16th Worcester*
James M. Cantwell	*4th Plymouth*
Diana DiZoglio	*14th Essex*
Michael F. Rush	*Norfolk and Suffolk*
Thomas P. Kennedy	*Second Plymouth and Bristol*
Gary Richard	*29 Abington Road* *Danvers, MA 01923*

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By Mr. Tarr, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 1712) of Bruce E. Tarr, Theodore C. Speliotis, Carlo Basile, John D. Keenan and other members of the General Court for legislation to enhance the license plate system of the Commonwealth. Transportation.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

An Act to enhance the license plate system of 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:

SECTION 1. For the purposes of this act, "enhanced recognition and identification registration plate" shall be a registration plate that has the capability to incorporate:

(a) commonly recognizable symbols, which are easily identifiable, with each symbol having a corresponding 3 character alpha-numeric reference, with not more than 2 characters identifying the symbol and 1 character representing the location of the symbol on the plate, such that both the symbol and the references may be placed in a variety of locations on the plate to maximize the number of individual combinations that may be produced in conjunction with standard letters and numbers;

(b) existing and innovative technologies and componentry to aid in the identification of characters in conditions that result in poor-visibility, including, but not limited to, nighttime and inclement weather;

(c) not more than 4 alpha-numeric characters; and

(d) distinctive and low-number plates, including plates authorized under sections 2 and 2E of chapter 90 of the General Laws, as well as any distinctive registration plates issued by the registrar under section 2F of said chapter 90.

SECTION 2. There is hereby established a special task force to analyze the feasibility of a registration plate system utilizing enhanced recognition and identification registration plates. The task force shall consist of the registrar of motor vehicles, who shall serve as the chair; the colonel of the state police or a designee; a representative of the Massachusetts Chiefs of Police Association; a representative of the criminal justice information systems; a designee from the Molly Bish Center for Missing and Exploited Children; the secretary of administration and finance or a designee the secretary of transportation or a designee; a representative of the

23 American Automobile Association; a representative of the Massachusetts Correctional
24 Industries; the secretary of the executive office of public safety and security or a designee; a
25 representative of the State Police Association of Massachusetts; a member of a labor
26 organization representing police officers designated by the governor; a designee appointed by the
27 senate president; a designee appointed by the minority leader of the senate; a designee appointed
28 by the speaker of the house of representatives; and a designee appointed by the minority leader
29 of the house of representatives.

30 The study shall include, but not be limited to, short-term and long-term costs to the
31 commonwealth, time frame for implementation, impact on federal, state and local law
32 enforcement and between states and the tools and equipment necessary to produce enhanced
33 recognition and identification registration plates. The study shall assess: (i) human reaction to
34 numbers, letters, characters and symbols and the ability to cognitively process such numbers,
35 letters, characters and symbols; provided, however, that the task force shall rely upon scientific
36 studies that have been peer reviewed and consult with relevant research or clinical scientists or
37 medical professionals to verify the accuracy of the information it reviews; (ii) transportation-
38 based factors including, but not limited to, the impact on toll revenues; (iii) interfaces with motor
39 vehicle databases in other states including, without limitation, any licensing and registration
40 system used by the registry of motor vehicles; and (iv) criminal information system accessibility.

41 The task force may conduct 1 or more public hearings to inform the public of its
42 activities. The task force shall seek input from the United States Department of Justice, the
43 United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement and the United States Department of
44 Homeland Security. The report of the task force shall be filed with the clerks of the senate and
45 the house of representatives not later than December 31, 2013.

46 SECTION 3. If designing, developing, procuring or implementing an information
47 management system as a successor or replacement to its Automated License and Registration
48 System, the registrar of motor vehicles shall, in good faith, attempt to ensure that such system is
49 consistent with the technology necessary to effectively utilize enhanced recognition and
50 identification registration plates. Nothing in this section shall limit the ability of the registrar to
51 make necessary changes and improvements to the current Automated License and Registration
52 System, or limit the registrar from designing, developing, procuring or implementing a successor
53 system that is not compliant with enhanced recognition and identification registration plates if
54 the registrar determines a system compatible with enhanced recognition and identification
55 registration plates is not in the best interest of the registry of motor vehicles or the
56 commonwealth.