



Commonwealth of Massachusetts

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

STATE HOUSE, ROOM 22, BOSTON, MA 02133-1054

JONATHAN HECHT
REPRESENTATIVE
29TH MIDDLESEX DISTRICT
WATERTOWN • CAMBRIDGE

Committees:
Children, Families & Persons with Disabilities
Election Laws
Global Warming and Climate Change
Public Health

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March 28, 2019

The Honorable William Straus
House Chair, Joint Committee on
Transportation
State House, Room 134
Boston, MA 02133

The Honorable Joseph Boncore
Senate Chair, Joint Committee on
Transportation
State House, Room 112
Boston, MA 02133

Dear Chair Straus and Chair Boncore,

I am writing respectfully to request your Committee's favorable consideration of H.3118, *An Act to reduce traffic fatalities*.

I would like to begin by thanking the Committee for its favorable report last session on this important bill. I am hopeful we can work together again this year to advance comprehensive road safety legislation which includes H.3118 as well as a ban on the use of hand-held mobile devices while operating a motor vehicle.

This bill is a refile of the bill that passed the Senate last session with a few changes. Those changes include:

1. Allowing the Registrar to designate further categories of vulnerable road users (Sec. 5). As we enter an era of new mobility options, it makes sense to maintain flexibility in this definition so that it can accommodate changes to our transportation landscape.
2. Creating a properly defined process whereby municipalities can seek a 25mph speed limit on state highways and parkways in thickly settled or business districts (Sec. 10). Based on conversations with MassDOT, it appears that this may require coordination with the federal Department of Transportation. We hope to work with you and MassDoT to ensure this language reflects the proper requirements.
3. Designating MassDOT, in consultation with the Department of Public Health and the Executive Office of Public Safety and Security, as the appropriate agency to create a standardized form to report crashes and incidents involving a vulnerable road user and a motor vehicle (Section 14).

Again, I would like to thank the Committee for its work and look forward to a productive session for road safety in the Commonwealth.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jonathan Hecht', written over the text 'Best regards,'.

Jonathan Hecht
State Representative
29th Middlesex District