

By Mr. Hillman of Sturbridge, petition of Reed V. Hillman relative to searches of vehicles stopped solely for a violation of the safety belt law. Public Safety.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand and Three.

AN ACT RELATIVE TO THE ENFORCEMENT OF THE SAFETY 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,
2 as appearing in the 1998 Official Edition is hereby amended in the
3 second paragraph by striking out the last sentence and inserting in
4 place thereof the following sentence:—

5 “A police officer may not search or inspect a motor vehicle, its
6 contents, the driver, or a passenger solely because of a violation
7 of this section.”

1 SECTION 2. For a period of 180 days following the effective
2 date of this act, any law enforcement official who stops a motorist
3 solely because of failure to wear a safety belt shall not issue a
4 citation, but shall only issue a written or verbal warning.

1 SECTION 3. ST. 1993, c. 387, s. 1, section 3 is hereby
2 repealed.

