

HOUSE No. 2430

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Michael S. Day, (BY REQUEST)

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 adoption of the accompanying bill:

An Act for police chief certification reform and improvement.

PETITION OF:

| NAME: | DISTRICT/ADDRESS: | DATE ADDED: |
|-------------------------------|--|------------------|
| <i>Vincent Lawrence Dixon</i> | <i>60 Lake Street-Unit N, Winchester, MA 01890</i> | <i>1/27/2021</i> |

HOUSE No. 2430

By Mr. Day of Stoneham (by request), a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 2430) of Vincent Lawrence Dixon for legislation to establish a distinct police chief standards and accreditation committee to make recommendations for police chief certification reform and improvement. Public Safety and Homeland Security.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

**In the One Hundred and Ninety-Second General Court
(2021-2022)**

An Act for police chief certification reform and improvement.

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. The Massachusetts General Laws are hereby amended by inserting the
2 following new chapter:

3 A Chapter for Police Chief Reform, And Improvement.

4 All persons, in order to be qualified to be a Police Chief, shall have a distinct
5 Certification Process, that is distinct, from the Police Officer Certification Process.

6 There shall be a distinct Police Chief Standards and Accreditation Committee. This
7 Committee shall develop, and implement, such procedures.

8 SECTION 2. The Schedule for Police Chiefs, and those qualifying for such status, by a
9 distinct Police Chief Standards and Accreditation Committee, shall be:

- 10 • Temporary License (Time Limited to One Year)

11 • Provisional License (Time Limited to Two Years)

12 • Initial License (Time Limited to Three Years)

13 • Professional License (Time Limited to Five Years)

14 SECTION 3. The Balances, that must be evaluated, in the context of, the complexity of
15 Police Reform, include these needs:

16 • To recognize the raising of the level, and competence, of Police Officers.

17 • To distinctly raise the level of Police Chiefs, who have additional needs for
18 breadth of skill, training, competence, and management abilities.

19 • To provide a reasonable period for qualifying competent officers, who may wish
20 to seek appropriate promotion.

21 • To provide a reasonable period for qualifying additionally competent Police
22 Chiefs.

23 • To recognize appropriate values, in updating competent Police Chiefs, and their
24 honorable positions.

25 SECTION 4. In general, in recognizing the need for these long overdue reforms, actions
26 may, and likely should, reduce to the absolute possible minimum, the unfortunate prevalence of
27 various incompetencies; and remove such individuals as do not meet reasonable standards;
28 whether they be Police Officers, or Police Chiefs. In so doing, this legislation seeks to further
29 improve, the professional quality of Police Chiefs, and the appropriate respect that such

30 professionals should have the opportunity of enjoyment, in the communities, for which they
31 serve.

32 SECTION 5. While this may lead to the selected removal of some long-time Police
33 Officers, or Police Chiefs, the cost of any reform, must include the capacity, to move on, to a
34 new, fresh page of progress, without retaining significant flaws, that should not have been
35 permitted. This set of circumstances, can certainly be appropriately adjusted for, by appropriate
36 retirements, through existing provisions of Retirement Law.