

# HOUSE . . . . . No. 3794

By Mr. Wallace of Boston, petition of Brian P. Wallace and others relative to the penalty for installation of hidden compartments for illegal storage purposes and defining such compartments under the law as “hide”. The Judiciary.

## The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

### PETITION OF:

Brian P. Wallace	Kay Khan
Thomas M. Menino	Elizabeth A. Malia
Michael F. Rush	John W. Scibak
Michael E. Festa	Joseph R. Driscoll

In the Year Two Thousand and Seven.

AN ACT RELATIVE TO THE ILLEGAL USE OF MOTOR VEHICLE HIDES.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:*

1 Chapter 94C of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2004 Offi-  
2 cial Edition, is amended by adding the following new section after  
3 section 32K:—

4 Section 32L. Motor vehicle hide; use in distribution of controlled  
5 substances and paraphernalia; penalties.

6 As used in this section, a “hide” shall be defined as any secret,  
7 hidden or false compartment that has been installed in a motor  
8 vehicle after-market, any factory-designed natural void occurring  
9 within the automobile, or any after-market created or modified void  
10 that is electronically, mechanically, or manually operated to gain  
11 access to it.

12 Any person who uses a hide space within a motor vehicle to  
13 secrete or store contraband or evidence, including, but not limited to,  
14 money or other proceeds, firearms or other weapons, packaging  
15 materials, or any other items related to the manufacturing, distribu-  
16 tion or dispensing or the intent to manufacture, distribute, or dis-  
17 pense any illegal drug or controlled substance in violation of  
18 Chapter 94C of the General Laws shall be punished by

19 imprisonment in the state prison for not less than three years and not  
20 more than five years, or by imprisonment in the house of correction  
21 for not more than two and one half years. No sentence imposed  
22 under the provisions of this section shall be for less than a manda-  
23 tory minimum term of imprisonment of two years. The penalty for a  
24 second or subsequent offense shall be imprisonment in the state  
25 prison for not less than five and not more than ten years.