

Offered by Councilor Michelle Wu



CITY OF BOSTON

IN THE YEAR TWO THOUSAND SIXTEEN

HOME RULE PETITION

FOR A SPECIAL LAW RE: AN ACT CONCERNING MOTOR VEHICLE EXCISE TAXES EXEMPTIONS

WHEREAS, Electric motor vehicles are a clean and reliable way to travel; and,

WHEREAS, According to the U.S. Department of Energy's Alternative Fuel Data Center, electric motor vehicles have significant emissions benefits over conventional vehicles, because they produce zero tailpipe emissions; and,

WHEREAS, The City of Boston has implemented numerous initiatives to make progress toward the Boston Climate Action Plan's goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 25% by 2020 and 80% by 2050; and,

WHEREAS, The City of Boston collects a motor vehicle excise tax for all vehicles garaged in the city, as spelled out in MGL chapter 60A; and,

WHEREAS, There are exemptions to the motor vehicle excise tax for a number of circumstances including, for vehicles registered to charitable organizations, vehicles registered and used for farming operations, and various exemptions for our veterans; *THEREFORE BE IT*

ORDERED, That a petition to the General Court, accompanied by a bill for a special law relating to the City of Boston to be filed with an attested copy of this order be, and hereby is, approved under Clause 1 of Section 8 of Article II, as amended, of the Articles of Amendment to the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, to the end that legislation be adopted precisely as follows, except for clerical or editorial changes of form only:

PETITION FOR A SPECIAL LAW RE: AN ACT CONCERNING MOTOR VEHICLE EXCISE TAXES EXEMPTIONS

Notwithstanding the provisions of section 1, of chapter 60A of the General Laws, or any other law, special act, rule or regulation to the contrary, the City of Boston shall be authorized to exempt owners of electric cars from the excise imposed pursuant to section 1 of chapter 60A. For purposes of this act, the term "electric car" shall be defined as a gross vehicle weight of less than 14,000 pounds that draws energy from a battery with at least 4kWh and that may/must be recharged from an external power source. The Commissioner of the Assessing Department or designee shall be authorized to formulate regulations in accordance with or to carry out the provisions of this act.