

# HOUSE . . . . . No. 3602

By Representative Provost of Somerville and Senator Jehlen, joint petition of Denise Provost and others for legislation to require yielding the right-of-way to public transit buses re-entering traffic. Transportation.

## The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PETITION OF:

Denise Provost  
David B. Sullivan

Carl M. Sciortino, Jr.  
Jennifer M. Callahan

In the Year Two Thousand and Seven.

AN ACT RELATIVE TO BUSES.

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

- 1 In chapter 89 of the General Laws, insert after section 11 a new
- 2 section:—
- 3 Section 12. Right-of-Way; Yielding to Buses.
- 4 (a) The driver of a vehicle overtaking a transit bus shall yield the
- 5 right-of-way to the bus if all of the following conditions are pre-
- 6 sent:—
- 7 (1) The transit bus has entirely exited an active traffic lane to
- 8 board or deboard passengers at a designated bus stop, and is
- 9 attempting to reenter the lane from which it exited.
- 10 (2) Directional signals on the transit bus are flashing to indicate
- 11 that the bus is preparing to merge with traffic.
- 12 (3) The transit bus is equipped with a yield right-of-way sign on
- 13 the left rear of the bus. The sign shall be both of the following:—
- 14 (A) Designed to warn a person operating a vehicle approaching
- 15 the rear of the bus that the person is required to yield the right-of-
- 16 way to the bus when the bus is entering traffic.
- 17 (B) Illuminated by a flashing light when the bus is signaling in
- 18 preparation for entering a traffic lane after having stopped to receive
- 19 or discharge passengers.

20 (b) Nothing in this section requires a transit agency to install the  
21 yield right-of-way sign described in paragraph (3) of subdivision (a).

22 (c) This section does not relieve the driver of a transit bus from  
23 the duty to drive the bus with due regard for the safety of all persons  
24 and property.

25 (d) As used in this section, the term “transit bus” means a motor  
26 bus or trackless trolley operated by the Massachusetts Bay Trans-  
27 portation Authority or by a regional transit authority, as defined in  
28 Chapter 161B.