

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 3612**

By Ms. Reinstein of Revere, petition of Kathi-Anne Reinstein relative to pedestrians and motor vehicles operations upon the approach of emergency vehicles. Transportation.

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

In the Year Two Thousand and Seven.

AN ACT RELATIVE TO THE OPERATION OF VEHICLES AND ACTIONS OF PEDESTRIANS ON APPROACH OF AUTHORIZED EMERGENCY VEHICLES.

*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 90 as appearing in the 2004 Official Edition is hereby  
2 amended by inserting after section 16A the following section: —

3 Section 16B. (a) Upon the immediate approach of an authorized  
4 emergency vehicle that is en route to meet an existing emergency,  
5 the driver of every other vehicle shall, when such emergency vehicle  
6 is giving audible signals by siren, exhaust whistle, or other adequate  
7 device, or visible signals by the use of displayed blue or red lights,  
8 yield the right-of-way to the emergency vehicle and shall immedi-  
9 ately proceed to a position parallel to, and as close as reasonable to,  
10 the closest edge of the curb of the roadway, clear of any intersection  
11 and shall stop and remain in position until the authorized emergency  
12 vehicle has passed or unless otherwise directed by any law enforce-  
13 ment officer.

14 (b) When an authorized emergency vehicle making use of any  
15 visual signals is parked or a wrecker displaying amber rotating or  
16 flashing lights is performing a recovery or loading on the roadside,  
17 the driver of every other vehicle, as soon as it is safe:—

18 (1) shall vacate the lane closest to the emergency vehicle or  
19 wrecker when driving on an interstate highway or other highway  
20 with two or more lanes traveling in the direction of the emergency  
21 vehicle or wrecker, except when otherwise directed by a law  
22 enforcement officer; and

23 (2) shall slow to a speed that is 20 miles per hour less than the  
24 posted speed limit when the posted speed limit is 25 miles per hour

25 or greater; or travel at 5 miles per hour when the posted speed limit is  
26 20 miles per hour or less, when driving on a two lane road, except  
27 when otherwise directed by a law enforcement officer.

28 (c) Every pedestrian using the road right-of-way shall yield the  
29 right-of-way until the authorized emergency vehicle has passed,  
30 unless otherwise directed by any police officer.

31 (d) A violation of this section is a non-criminal traffic infraction,  
32 punishable pursuant to chapter 90 as either a moving violation for  
33 infractions of section (16), or as a pedestrian violation for infractions  
34 of section (18A).