New Vulnerable Road Users Laws went into effect on April 1st, 2023 in Massachusetts. The law requires motorists to pass a vulnerable road user at a “safe passing distance” of at least 4 feet.

When passing a vulnerable road user or other vehicles, the motorist shall use all or part of an adjacent lane, crossing the centerline if necessary, “when it is safe to do so and adhering to the roadway speed limit”.

WHO ARE VULNERABLE ROAD USERS:
People walking and biking
Roadside workers
People using wheelchairs or personal mobility devices
People using scooters, skateboards, roller skates
People on horses or in a horse-drawn carriage
People operating farm equipment on the roadway

To meet the largest group of vulnerable road users operating on the roadway, signs defining the required 4-foot safe passing distance will be posted along roadways that do not have designated bike lanes or separated bike paths.