

HOUSE No. 1384

By Mr. Clampit of Springfield, petition of Ralph V. Clampit for further regulation of the use and operation of headlamps on motor vehicles. Highways and Motor Vehicles.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Forty-One.

AN ACT FURTHER REGULATING THE USE AND OPERATION OF MOTOR VEHICLE HEADLAMPS.

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

1 SECTION 1. Chapter ninety of the General Laws,
2 as most recently amended, is hereby further amended
3 by adding after section seven A the following new
4 section:—
5 *Section 7B.* The lights required to be displayed
6 on automobiles under section seven of this chapter
7 shall consist of two headlamps of approximately
8 equal candle power, as approved by the registrar un-
9 der said section seven. Such headlamps may be of
10 the multiple beam type, designed to produce more
11 than one beam or distribution of light, or of the single
12 beam type, designed to produce only one beam or
13 distribution of light. Multiple beam headlamps shall

14 be sufficient to reveal, when operated on its upper-
15 most beam, any person, vehicle or substantial object
16 on the highway straight ahead of such vehicle for a
17 distance of at least three hundred feet; and single
18 beam headlamps shall be sufficient to reveal any per-
19 son, vehicle or substantial object on the highway
20 straight ahead of such vehicle for at least two hundred
21 feet.

22 All headlamps so used on automobiles shall be so
23 arranged and operated as to avoid dangerous glare
24 or dazzle. The upper outline of the uppermost beam
25 of a multiple beam headlamp shall not rise higher
26 than to a point two inches below the center of the
27 lamp at a distance of twenty-five feet; and the upper
28 outline of the beam of a single beam headlamp shall
29 not rise higher than to a point three and one half
30 inches below the center of the lamp at a distance of
31 twenty-five feet. In each case, the height of the beam
32 shall be measured from the plane upon which the
33 vehicle stands and the distance shall be measured
34 from the lamp projecting the light.

35 Any motor vehicle may be equipped with not more
36 than three auxiliary driving lights mounted on the
37 front at a height of not less than twelve inches nor
38 more than forty-two inches above the plane upon
39 which the vehicle stands, provided however, that the
40 said auxiliary driving lamps have been approved by
41 the registrar in the manner provided in section seven
42 of this chapter for the approval of headlamps. Said
43 auxiliary driving lights shall be so mounted, adjusted
44 and maintained that the long axis of the beam shall
45 be approximately parallel to the plane upon which
46 the vehicle rests and so that the upper outline of the

47 beam shall not meet the plane upon which the vehicle
48 rests at a point farther distant from said auxiliary
49 lights than two hundred feet ahead.

1 SECTION 2. This act shall become effective on the
2 first day of October of the current year.

