

HOUSE No. 2662

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, June 30, 1941.

The committee on Highways and Motor Vehicles, to whom were referred the petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 216) of George J. O'Shea that operators of bicycles be prohibited from permitting other persons to ride with them upon said vehicles unless they are of tandem or similar type, the petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 554) of Alfred A. Maffeo and others for the registration of bicycles for the purpose of making more difficult their theft and for promoting a greater degree of care in their operation, the petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 1073) of George J. O'Shea for legislation to provide for the registration of bicycles and for making more difficult their theft and promoting a greater degree of care in their operation, the petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 1389) of the New Bedford Safety Council for legislation to make certain provisions of law providing for the regulation of bicycles inapplicable to certain cities and towns, and the petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 1970) of Vernon C. Newman for the registration of bicycles for the purpose of regulating their use and making more difficult their theft, report the accompanying bill (House, No. 2662).

For the committee,

PHILIP M. MARKLEY.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

AN ACT REQUIRING THE REGISTRATION OF BICYCLES AND FURTHER REGULATING THEIR OPERATION.

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 eighty-five of the General
2 Laws is hereby amended by striking out sections
3 thirteen and fourteen, as appearing in the Tercente-
4 nary Edition, and inserting in place thereof the follow-
5 ing:—

6 *Section 13.* No bicycle shall be operated in this
7 commonwealth unless registered under this section
8 and unless the registration plate issued therefor is
9 attached to such bicycle. The police department of
10 every city and town, or the selectmen of a town hav-
11 ing no organized police department, shall register all
12 bicycles owned by persons residing within such city
13 or town and issue to the owners thereof certificates of
14 registration, which shall be in effect, unless suspended
15 as hereinafter provided, so long as such registrants
16 own said bicycles. The application for registration
17 shall contain the name, address and age of the owner,
18 the make of the bicycle, and serial number, if any,
19 affixed by the maker, or any other identifying marks.
20 The certificate of registration shall contain the name
21 and address of the owner, a description of the bicycle

22 and a register number. Every bicycle so registered
23 shall have attached thereto a registration plate fur-
24 nished by the police department or the selectmen, as
25 the case may be, of the city or town where registered.
26 Such plate shall bear the register number assigned to
27 the bicycle and the name of the city or town where
28 registered. Upon the sale or other transfer of a regis-
29 tered bicycle, the registrant shall remove the regis-
30 tration plate and surrender the same to the police
31 department or the selectmen, as the case may be, or
32 may, upon application but without payment of an
33 additional fee, have said plate assigned to another
34 bicycle owned by the applicant. A bicycle rental
35 agency shall not rent or offer any bicycle for rent unless
36 the bicycle is registered and a license plate is attached
37 thereto as provided herein. Every person engaged in
38 the business of buying or selling new or second hand
39 bicycles shall make a report to the said police depart-
40 ment or selectmen, as the case may be, of every bicycle
41 purchased or sold by such dealer, giving the name and
42 address of the person from whom purchased or to
43 whom sold, a description of such bicycle by name or
44 make, and the number of the license plate, if any,
45 attached thereto. Blank forms of applications and
46 certificates for use in carrying out the provisions of
47 this section shall be prepared and furnished by the
48 commissioner of public safety to cities and towns at
49 the expense of such cities and towns. Every bicycle
50 shall be equipped with a red reflector visible from the
51 rear and at least two inches in diameter.

52 *Section 14.* Operators of bicycles shall conform to
53 traffic rules and regulations so far as they are obviously
54 and reasonably applicable for their own safety. No
55 operator of a bicycle shall permit another person to

56 ride on any portion of the bicycle with him unless said
57 bicycle is equipped for two or more riders, and no
58 operator shall permit his bicycle to be drawn by any
59 other moving vehicle. The police department or the
60 board of selectmen, as the case may be, may suspend
61 the registration certificate of any bicycle issued by
62 them and impound said bicycle for a period of not
63 more than fifteen days for the violation of any provi-
64 sion of this section or section thirteen.

1 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect on July first,
2 nineteen hundred and forty- .