
To accompany the petition of A. Frank Foster and John E. Powers for the establishment in the Registry of Motor Vehicles of a central accident records bureau, and requiring the reporting of certain accidents. Highways and Motor Vehicles.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Fifty-Seven.

AN ACT ESTABLISHING A CENTRAL ACCIDENT RECORDS BUREAU
IN THE REGISTRY OF MOTOR VEHICLES AND REQUIRING THE RE-
PORTING OF CERTAIN ACCIDENTS.

*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 16 of the General Laws is hereby
2 amended by adding at the end the following two sections:—
3 *Section 9.* There shall be in the registry of motor vehicles
4 a central accident records bureau under charge of a director
5 who shall be appointed by the registrar.
6 *Section 10.* The central accident records bureau shall
7 process every accident report received by the registrar. The
8 director shall maintain files so that all accident reports may
9 be readily identified for specific location and for specific
10 operators. He shall make a detailed analysis of all such
11 reports and shall publish annually, or at more frequent in-
12 tervals, statistical information as to the number, causes
13 and circumstances of traffic accidents. He shall maintain
14 maps of adequate scale showing the location of all reported
15 accidents. Reports of all accidents shall be available to the
16 commissioner of public safety, to the commissioner of public
17 works, and to any other department, board or commission

18 of the commonwealth interested in the enforcement of law
19 relating to highway safety. Statistical information, analysis
20 and other data calculated to promote safety on the highways
21 shall be distributed to the said agencies and to the various
22 cities and towns of the commonwealth.

1 SECTION 2. Chapter 90 of the General Laws is hereby
2 amended by striking out section 26 and inserting in place
3 thereof the following two sections:—

4 *Section 26.* Every person operating a motor vehicle which
5 is in any manner involved in an accident in which any person
6 is killed or injured therein, or in which there is damage in
7 excess of twenty-five dollars, shall report the same to the
8 registrar on a form approved by him. In the case of an ac-
9 cident in which a person is killed or injured, such report shall
10 be made forthwith; in all other accidents, such report shall
11 be made within five days after such accident. The registrar
12 may revoke or suspend the license of any person violating
13 this section.

14 *Section 26A.* A law enforcement officer whose duty it is to
15 investigate any such accident either at the time of the acci-
16 dent and on the scene thereof, or thereafter by interviewing
17 participants therein or witnesses thereto, shall, upon com-
18 pleting such investigation, furnish a written report of such
19 accident to the registrar.