

# HOUSE . . . . No. 565

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By Mr. O'Kane of Dudley, petition of Charles A. Merrill and others for legislation to require that motor vehicles be equipped with apparatus to maintain the proper focus of their lights. Highways and Motor Vehicles.

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## The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

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An Act to require that Motor Vehicles be equipped with Apparatus to maintain the Proper Focus of Lights.

*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 seven of chapter ninety of the General  
2 Laws, as most recently amended by chapter forty-  
3 three of the acts of nineteen hundred and twenty-  
4 nine, is hereby further amended by inserting after  
5 the word "tint" in the thirtieth line the words:—  
6 and equipped with a device that will permanently  
7 secure or lock the focusing arrangement when the  
8 proper beam or focus of the lights is obtained,—so  
9 as to read as follows:—*Section 7.* Every motor  
10 vehicle operated in or upon any way shall be pro-  
11 vided with brakes adequate to control the move-  
12 ment of such vehicle and conforming to rules and  
13 regulations made by the registrar, and such brakes

14 shall at all times be maintained in good working  
15 order. Every automobile shall be provided with at  
16 least two braking systems, each with a separate  
17 means of application, each operating directly or indi-  
18 rectly on at least two wheels and each of which shall  
19 suffice alone to stop said automobile within a proper  
20 distance as defined in said rules and regulations;  
21 provided, that if said systems are connected, com-  
22 bined or have any part in common, such systems  
23 shall be so constructed that a breaking of any one  
24 element thereof will not leave the automobile with-  
25 out brakes acting directly or indirectly on at least  
26 two wheels. One braking system shall be so con-  
27 structed that it can be set to hold the automobile  
28 stationary. Every motor cycle shall be provided  
29 with at least one brake adequate to stop it within  
30 a proper distance as defined as aforesaid. Every  
31 motor vehicle so operated shall be provided with a  
32 muffler or other suitable device to prevent unneces-  
33 sary noise and with a suitable bell, horn or other  
34 means of signalling, and with suitable lamps; and  
35 automobiles shall be provided with a lock, a key or  
36 other device to prevent such vehicle from being set  
37 in motion by unauthorized persons, or otherwise,  
38 contrary to the will of the owner or person in charge  
39 thereof. Every automobile operated during the  
40 period from one half an hour after sunset to one  
41 half an hour before sunrise shall display at least  
42 two white lights, or lights of yellow or amber tint  
43 and equipped with a device that will permanently  
44 secure or lock the focusing arrangement when the  
45 proper beam or focus of the lights is obtained, or,  
46 if parked within the limits of a way, one white light

47 on the side of the automobile nearer the centre of  
48 the way, and every motor cycle so operated at least  
49 one white light, or light of yellow or amber tint,  
50 and every such motor cycle with a side-car attached,  
51 in addition, one such light on the front of the side-  
52 car, and every motor truck, trailer and commercial  
53 motor vehicle used solely as such, having a carrying  
54 capacity of three tons or over, in addition, a green  
55 light attached to the extreme left of the front of such  
56 vehicle, so attached and adjusted as to indicate the  
57 extreme lateral extension of the vehicle or load, which  
58 shall in all cases aforesaid be visible not less than two  
59 hundred feet in the direction toward which the vehicle  
60 is proceeding or facing; and every such motor vehicle  
61 shall display at least one red light in the reverse direc-  
62 tion; provided, that an automobile need display no  
63 light when parked within the limits of a way in a  
64 space in which unlighted parking is permitted by the  
65 rules or regulations of the board or officer having con-  
66 trol of such way. Every automobile so operated shall  
67 have a rear light so placed as to show a red light from  
68 behind and a white light so arranged as to illuminate  
69 and not obscure the rear register number. No head-  
70 lamp shall be used upon any motor vehicle so oper-  
71 ated unless such lamp is equipped with a lens or other  
72 device, approved by the registrar, designed to pre-  
73 vent glaring rays. No rear lamp shall be used upon  
74 any motor vehicle so operated unless approved by the  
75 registrar. Application for the approval of a lens, or  
76 other device, or of a rear lamp, accompanied by a  
77 fee of fifty dollars, may be made to the registrar by  
78 any manufacturer thereof or dealer therein. Every  
79 automobile used for the carriage of passengers for

80 hire, and every commercial motor vehicle or motor  
81 truck, so constructed, equipped or loaded that the  
82 person operating the same is prevented from having  
83 a constantly free and unobstructed view of the  
84 highway immediately in the rear, shall have at-  
85 tached to the vehicle a mirror or reflector so placed  
86 and adjusted as to afford the operator a clear, re-  
87 flected view of the highway in the rear of the vehicle.