

By Mr. Cavanaugh of Holyoke, petition of John J. Cavanaugh that local police departments be required to make certain examinations of motor vehicles involved in accidents and to keep reports of such examinations available for trial. Highways and Motor Vehicles.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Sixty.

AN ACT REQUIRING LOCAL POLICE DEPARTMENTS TO MAKE CERTAIN EXAMINATIONS OF VEHICLES INVOLVED IN ACCIDENTS AND TO KEEP REPORTS OF SUCH EXAMINATION AVAILABLE FOR TRIAL.

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

1 Notwithstanding any general or special law or rule or regu-
2 lation of any city or town or of the registrar of motor vehicles
3 to the contrary, every operator involved in a motor vehicle
4 accident whether there is a personal injury or property damage
5 or both shall notify the police department in the city or town
6 wherein the accident occurs before leaving the scene of said acci-
7 dent. And the chief officer of such city or town, when so noti-
8 fied that a motor vehicle accident has taken place, shall go im-
9 mediately to the scene of the said accident or dispatch a member
10 of his department, who shall make as thorough a check as possi-
11 ble of the brakes, horn, lights, windshield wipers and directional
12 signals on each vehicle involved, and shall compile a report stat-
13 ing the names and addresses of the operators and owners of such
14 vehicles, together with a statement as to the condition of each
15 of the elements enumerated above. These reports shall be re-
16 tained in the office of the chief officer of the police department
17 in the city wherein the accident takes place, and shall be made
18 available for presentation in any court of competent jurisdic-
19 tion, if summonsed by either or any of the parties involved in
20 such accident.

