

By Mr. Speliotis of Danvers, petition of Theodore C. Speliotis for legislation relative to further regulating motorized bicycles and motorized tricycles. Public Safety.

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**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

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In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Eighty-Six.

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**AN ACT FURTHER REGULATING MOTORIZED BICYCLES AND MOTORIZED TRICYCLES.**

*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.** Section 1 of Chapter 90 of the General Laws is  
2 hereby amended by inserting after the definition of "Mobile con-  
3 struction crane" the following definition: —

4     "Moped" a pedal bicycle which has a helper motor rated no more  
5 than 2.0 brake horsepower, a cylinder capacity not exceeding fifty  
6 cubic centimeters, an automatic transmission, and which is capable  
7 of a maximum design speed of not more than thirty miles per hour,  
8 or a pedal bicycle with a motor or driving wheel attached which  
9 when activated makes direct contact with and furnishes power  
10 directly to a wheel of such vehicle and is incapable of propelling the  
11 vehicle in excess of thirty miles per hour.

1     **SECTION 2.** Said section 1 of said chapter 90 is hereby further  
2 amended by striking out the definition of "Motor Cycle" as most  
3 recently amended by section 1 of chapter 261 of the Acts of 1976  
4 and inserting in place thereof the following definition: — "Motor  
5 Cycle", any motor vehicle having a seat or saddle for the use of the  
6 rider and designed to travel on not more than three wheels in  
7 contact with the ground, except a tractor or a motor vehicle  
8 designed for the carrying of golf clubs and not more than four  
9 persons, an industrial three-wheel truck, a motor vehicle on which  
10 the operator and passenger ride within an enclosed cab, or a  
11 moped.

1 SECTION 3. Said Section 1 of said Chapter 90 is hereby furth-  
2 er amended by striking out the definition of "Motorized Bicycle".

1 SECTION 4. The definition of "Motor vehicles" in said section  
2 1 of said chapter 90 is hereby amended by striking out the sentence  
3 as inserted by section 3 of said chapter 261 and inserting in place  
4 thereof the following sentence: — the definition of "motor vehicles"  
5 shall not include moped.

1 SECTION 5. Said chapter 90 is hereby further amended by  
2 striking out Section 1B to 1D, inclusive, and inserting in place  
3 thereof the following three sections: —

4 *Section 1B.* (1) a moped shall not be operated on any way, as  
5 defined in section one within the commonwealth by any person  
6 under sixteen years of age, nor at a speed in excess of thirty miles  
7 per hour.

8 (2) A moped shall not be operated on any way by any person not  
9 having in his possession a valid operator's license, or a learner's  
10 permit.

11 (3) Every person operating a moped upon a way, shall have the  
12 right to all public ways, except limited access or express highways  
13 where signs specifically prohibiting bicycles have been posted.  
14 Mopeds may be operated on bicycle lanes that are adjacent to any  
15 way, but shall be excluded from off-street recreational bicycle  
16 paths.

17 (4) Except as provided in this section, or in section five, no  
18 person, after the fifth day of purchase or acquisition of a moped  
19 shall operate or allow to be operated upon any way said moped,  
20 unless it has displayed on the rear, a current plate or decal issued by  
21 the Registrar to the owner thereof. During such five day period, the  
22 operator shall carry an original copy of a bill of sale clearly  
23 indicating the date of purchase or acquisition.

24 (5) Non-resident owners who have registered their mopeds in  
25 compliance with the registration and licensing laws of the state,  
26 provided the mopeds are appropriately identified in accordance  
27 with the laws of the state of residence, need not display a decal or  
28 plate issued by the Registrar.

29 (6) A person operating a moped shall ride only upon the per-

30 manent or regular seat attached thereto, and such operator shall  
31 not carry any other person nor shall any other person ride on a  
32 moped unless said moped is designed to carry more than one  
33 person, in which event, a passenger may ride upon the permanent  
34 and regular seat if designed for two persons, or upon another seat  
35 firmly attached to the moped at the rear of the operator.

36 (7) An operator of a moped shall at all times, except when  
37 signalling pursuant to clause (10) keep both hands upon the han-  
38 dlebars and shall not carry any pack, bundle or article which  
39 prevents him from keeping both hands on the handlebars.

40 (8) No person shall operate a moped nor shall any person ride in  
41 a position that will interfere with the operation or control of the  
42 moped or the view of the operator.

43 (9) The operator of any moped shall signal, by either hand, or by  
44 a mechanical or electrical device, his intention to stop or turn.

45 (10) All mopeds shall be entitled to full use of a lane and no motor  
46 vehicle shall be driven in such manner as to intentionally deprive  
47 any moped of the full use of the lane.

48 (11) The operator of a moped shall not overtake and pass a motor  
49 vehicle in the same lane occupied by such vehicle.

50 (12) No person shall operate a moped between lanes of traffic or  
51 between adjacent lines or rows of vehicles.

52 (13) Mopeds shall not be operated more than two abreast in a  
53 single lane.

54 (14) Paragraphs (11), (12), (13) shall not apply to police officers  
55 in the performance of their official duties.

56 (15) No person riding upon a moped shall attach themselves or  
57 the moped to any vehicle being operated on a way.

58 (16) No moped shall be operated upon a way with handlebars  
59 more than fifteen inches in height above that portion of the seat  
60 occupied by the operator.

61 (17) No person shall operate a moped upon any way while under  
62 the influence of intoxicating liquor or a controlled substance as  
63 defined in section 1 of chapter 94C, or the vapors of glue.

64 (18) Every moped that is upon a way during the period from  
65 one-half after sunset to one-half hour before sunrise shall display  
66 one lighted headlamp in front and one red light on the rear.

67 (19) No person having control or charge of a moped shall allow

68 such vehicle to stand in any way without shutting off the engine,  
69 locking and removing the key from the locking device.

70 (20) The operator of a moped shall report, in writing within five  
71 days, any accident involving either personal injury or property  
72 damage in excess of \$100.00 or both, to the Registrar, on a form  
73 approved by him and send a copy thereof to the police department  
74 having jurisdiction over the place on the way where such accident  
75 occurred.

76 (21) Any person operating a moped shall, when requested by a  
77 police officer, give his name and address, and name and address of  
78 the vehicle owner, produce his license or learner's permit for in-  
79 spection by such officer, and allow the officer to inspect the  
80 equipment of such mopeds. Any office authorized to make arrests  
81 may arrest without a warrant and keep in custody for not more  
82 than twenty-four hours, unless Sunday intervenes, any person  
83 who, while operating a moped upon any way, shall refuse, when  
84 requested by such officer, to give such information or produce his  
85 license or learner's permit for inspection.

86 (22) A person convicted of a violation of any provision of section  
87 1B or 1C shall be punished by a fine of no more than twenty-five  
88 dollars.

89 *Section 1C.* Mopeds shall comply with all applicable federal  
90 motor vehicle safety standards. All equipment required by said  
91 standards shall be maintained in proper working order.

92 *Section 1D.* Application for a plate or decal shall be made by  
93 the owner of a moped upon the acquisition of such vehicle to the  
94 registrar, on a prescribed form accompanied by the fee established  
95 by the commission of administration and finance. Any plate or  
96 decal, issued by the registrar for moped, shall be valid for a period  
97 of two years or until the ownership of said vehicle is transferred,  
98 whichever, is shorter.

1 SECTION 6. Section 8B of said chapter 90, as most recently  
2 amended by section 5 of chapter 261 of the acts of 1976, is hereby  
3 further amended by striking out in line 16, the words "motorized  
4 bicycles" and inserting in place thereof the words: — moped.