

By Mr. Thompson of Cambridge, petition of International Brotherhood of Police Officers and Alvin E. Thompson for legislation to regulate high speed pursuit of motor vehicles by police officers. Public Safety.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

AN ACT RELATIVE TO HIGH SPEED PURSUIT.

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

1 Chapter 90 of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting
2 after section 24O the following section: —

3 Section 24P. Any person who, after being signalled to stop by
4 a police officer in uniform or conspicuously displaying his badge
5 of office or by a police officer in a conspicuously marked police
6 vehicle, shall operate a motor vehicle at a rate of speed greater
7 than is reasonable and proper for a distance of a quarter of a mile
8 or more knowing that the vehicle is being followed by a police
9 vehicle shall have his license or right to operate suspended for one
10 year.

11 Any officer authorized to make arrests may arrest without
12 warrant any person violating this section or who the officer has
13 probable cause to believe has violated this section.

14 A conviction of a violation of this section shall be reported
15 forthwith by the court or magistrate to the registrar who shall
16 suspend immediately the license or right to operate of the person
17 so convicted, and no appeal, motion for new trial or exceptions
18 shall operate to stay the suspension of the license or right to
19 operate. The registrar after having suspended the license or right
20 to operate in accordance with this paragraph shall not terminate
21 such suspension nor reinstate the right to operate to such person
22 until one year after the date of suspension following said
23 conviction; provided, however, that if the prosecution against
24 such person has terminated in his favor, the registrar shall
25 forthwith reinstate his license or right to operate.

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