

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

---

SENATE, March 4, 1997.

The committee on Public Safety, to whom was referred the petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 1121) of James P. Jajuga for legislation relative to the use of headlights on motor vehicles; the petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 1163) of Richard R. Tisei for legislation relative to the use of motor vehicle headlights; the petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 1167) of Warren E. Tolman for legislation to require the use of lights on motor vehicles during any period in which windshield wipers are also in use; the petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 325) of Nancy Flavin, Daniel F. Keenan, Cele Hahn and Michael R. Knapik for legislation to further regulate the operation of motor vehicles; the petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 329) of John C. Klimm for legislation to require the illumination of motor vehicle headlights whenever windshield wipers are in operation; the petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 756) of Arthur Merritt relative to the display of certain lights on motor vehicles during inclement weather; and the petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 2160) of Shirley Gomes for legislation to require the use of headlights while operating a motor vehicle during certain atmospheric conditions, reports the accompanying bill (Senate, No. 1702).

For the committee,

JAMES P. JAJUGA.

## The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

---

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

---

### AN ACT RELATIVE TO THE USE OF HEADLIGHTS.

*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 15 of chapter 85 of the General Laws, as appearing  
2 in the 1994 Official Edition, is hereby amended by striking out  
3 lines 1 through 4 and inserting in place thereof the following:—  
4 Section 15. Every vehicle, whether stationary or in motion,  
5 on any public way, shall have attached to it a light or lights  
6 (i.e., headlight(s) and taillight(s)) which shall be turned on by the  
7 vehicle operator so as to be visible from the front and rear during  
8 the period of one half-hour after sunset to one half-hour before  
9 sunrise; provided, such lamps shall be turned on by the vehicle  
10 operator at all other times when, due to insufficient light or unfa-  
11 vorable atmospheric conditions, visibility is reduced such that per-  
12 sons or vehicles on the roadway are not clearly discernible at a  
13 distance of five hundred feet, or the vehicle windshield wipers are  
14 needed.