

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts



THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

STATE HOUSE • BOSTON 02133

WILLIAM F. WELD
GOVERNOR

ARGEO PAUL CELLUCCI
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

March 3, 1993

To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives:

We are filing herewith for your consideration the attached legislative proposal entitled, "An Act to Establish Mandatory License Suspension for Violation of Underage Drinking Laws."

Underage drinking and motor vehicle accidents caused by intoxicated youth continue to pose a significant threat to the health, safety, and well-being of innocent citizens in the Commonwealth. Despite previous efforts to address this problem through increased fines and penalties, too many of our youth are simply not being effectively deterred from purchasing alcohol, altering identification cards, or transporting or carrying alcohol on their person. Current laws simply do not deter minors from purchasing and consuming alcohol and then operating a motor vehicle.

The proposed legislation would provide for a mandatory license suspension of three months for any person under the age of twenty-one who purchases or attempts to purchase alcoholic beverages or who alters, defaces or falsifies his identification as proof of age in order to purchase alcohol and a three month suspension for any person who knowingly transports or carries on his person any alcoholic beverages. Currently these violations are punishable by a fine and depending upon the violation, the registrar may suspend the operator's license.

This legislation is needed to strengthen the existing law, impose a punishment which is appropriate for the offense, and serve as a powerful deterrent to underage drinking and driving.

We urge your prompt consideration of this Act.

Respectfully submitted,

William F. Weld

William F. Weld
Governor

Argo Paul Cellucci
Argo Paul Cellucci
Lieutenant Governor

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

AN ACT TO ESTABLISH MANDATORY LICENSE SUSPENSION FOR VIOLATION OF UNDERAGE DRINKING LAWS.

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 34A of chapter 138 of the General Laws,
2 as appearing in the 1990 Official Edition, is hereby amended by
3 inserting after the word “dollars.”, in line 17, the following: — A
4 conviction of a violation of this section shall be reported forthwith
5 to the registrar of motor vehicles by the court. Upon receipt of
6 such notice the registrar shall thereupon suspend the defendant’s
7 license or right to operate a motor vehicle for ninety days.

1 SECTION 2. Section 34C of chapter 138 of the General Laws,
2 as appearing in the 1990 Official Edition, is hereby amended by
3 striking out the last sentence and inserting in place thereof the
4 following: — A conviction of a violation of this section shall be
5 reported forthwith to the registry of motor vehicles by the court
6 and the registrar shall thereupon suspend the license of such
7 person to operate a motor vehicle for a period of ninety days.