

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts



JANE SWIFT
GOVERNOR

THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

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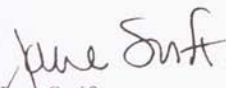
To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives:

I am filing today the attached legislation entitled, "An Act to Clarify the Open Container Law." This bill is necessary to clarify that under current law, drivers of all motor vehicles, including house coaches and house trailers, are prohibited from possessing open containers of alcoholic beverages.

In order to prevent a penalty transfer of 1 ½ % of federal funds from highway construction to highway safety for fiscal year 2001, a transfer of approximately 4 million dollars, this legislation must be signed into law and enforced by October 1, 2001.

Accordingly, I urge your prompt and favorable consideration of this legislation.

Respectfully submitted,


Jane Swift
Governor
Acting

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand and One.

AN ACT TO CLARIFY THE OPEN CONTAINER LAW.

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 24I of chapter 90 of the General Laws, as appearing in
2 the 2000 Official Edition, is hereby amended by inserting the
3 following subsection:—

4 (d) Notwithstanding the provisions of this section, the driver of
5 any motor vehicle, including but not limited to a house coach or
6 house trailer, shall not possess an open container of alcoholic bev-
7 erage.