

By Mr. Toomey of Cambridge, petition of Timothy J. Toomey, Jr., and another relative to the arrest and penalty of persons involved in high speed motor vehicle pursuits. Criminal Justice.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

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 a  
4 police officer in uniform conspicuously displaying his badge of  
5 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 war-  
12 rant any person violating this section or who the officer has prob-  
13 able 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 sus-  
16 pend immediately the license or right to operate of the person so  
17 convicted, and no appeal, motion for new trial or exceptions shall  
18 operate to stay the suspension of the license or right to operate.  
19 The registrar after having suspended the license or right to operate  
20 in accordance with this paragraph shall not terminate such suspen-  
21 sion nor reinstate the right to operate to such person until one year  
22 after the date of suspension following said conviction; provided,  
23 however, that if the prosecution against such person has termi-  
24 nated in his favor, the registrar shall forthwith reinstate his license  
25 or right to operate.

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