

By Mrs. Pines of Newton, petition of William MacAusland, Sally Barnett and Lois G. Pines for legislation to require certain motor vehicles to be equipped with seat and shoulder safety harnesses and making their use mandatory. Public Safety.

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Seventy-Five.

AN ACT REQUIRING SEAT AND SHOULDER SAFETY HARNESSES ON CERTAIN MOTOR VEHICLES AND THEIR MANDATORY USE.

*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 7 of chapter 90 of the General Laws is  
2 hereby amended by adding the following three sections:—

3 (1) (a) Each motor vehicle manufactured or assembled on or  
4 after January 1, 1968, shall be equipped with the same number  
5 of safety belts which it was required by Federal law to be  
6 equipped at the time of its manufacture.

7 (b) No person shall remove, disconnect or reduce the  
8 effectiveness of, and no owner of a motor vehicle shall cause or  
9 knowingly permit the removal, disconnection or reduction in the  
10 effectiveness of, any part of any safety belt required to be in a  
11 motor vehicle by State or Federal law at the time of  
12 manufacture or while the motor vehicle is in use, except  
13 temporarily for cleaning, repair, replacement, or adjustment.

14 (c) The owner of any motor vehicle required by State or  
15 Federal law to have safety belts shall maintain all the required  
16 safety belts in that vehicle in good operational condition.

1 SECTION 2. (a) No driver shall operate a motor vehicle on a  
2 public highway unless he is wearing a properly adjusted and  
3 fastened lap belt, if his seating position is required by law to be  
4 so equipped.

5 (b) No driver shall operate a motor vehicle on a public  
6 highway unless he is wearing a properly adjusted and fastened

7 shoulder belt, if his seating position is required by law to be so  
8 equipped.

9 (c) Section 2 A and B shall not apply to any driver who is  
10 operating a motor vehicle in reverse gear or reverse direction.

11 (d) No person shall ride as a passenger in any motor vehicle  
12 on a public highway unless he is seated in a seating position  
13 equipped with safety belts.

14 (e) Section 2 D shall not apply to any person riding as a  
15 passenger in a motor vehicle in which all seating positions  
16 equipped with safety belts are occupied by other persons.

17 (f) No person over 4 years of age and also over 40 pounds  
18 shall ride as a passenger in any motor vehicle on a public  
19 highway unless he is wearing a properly adjusted and fastened  
20 lap belt, if his seating position is so equipped.

21 (g) Section 2 F shall not apply to a child who is using a  
22 properly adjusted and secured child restraint approved by the  
23 Registrar of Motor Vehicles and suitable for his physical  
24 development and weight.

25 (h) No child under 4 years of age and no child under 40  
26 pounds, if his seating position is equipped with a lap belt, shall  
27 ride as a passenger in any motor vehicle on a public highway  
28 unless he is using a properly adjusted and secured child or infant  
29 restraint approved by the Registrar of Motor Vehicles and  
30 suitable for his physical development and weight.

31 (i) No person shall ride as a passenger in any motor vehicle  
32 on a public highway unless he is wearing a properly adjusted  
33 and fastened shoulder belt, if his seating position is so equipped.

34 (j) Section 2 I shall not apply to any person who does not  
35 meet the manufacturer's recommended height for the use of the  
36 shoulder belt.

37 (k) Section 2 A, B, D, F, H, and I shall not apply to any  
38 person excused for medical reasons, provided that such  
39 certification by a licensed physician is in the person's possession  
40 when such violation occurs.

1 SECTION 3. (a) The Registrar of Motor Vehicles shall, after  
2 a public hearing, set minimum specifications and standards for  
3 the construction and performance of child and infant restraints

4 to be used in motor vehicles. Standards for performance shall  
5 include protection of the occupant in the event of a crash, as  
6 demonstrated in dynamic tests with anthropomorphic dummies.  
7 Specifications and standards shall be equivalent to or more  
8 stringent than the regulations of the U.S. Department of  
9 Transportation.

10 (b) The Registrar shall, after a public hearing, issue guidelines  
11 for the correct use of safety restraints in automobiles.

1 SECTION 4. (a) Any person who violates Section 1 shall be  
2 subject to a fine of not less than \$50 nor more than \$100. Any  
3 person who violates Section 2 shall be subject to a fine of \$25.  
4 Any operator of a motor vehicle who allows a person under 16  
5 years of age to ride in such motor vehicle in violation of Section  
6 2 shall be subject to a fine of \$25.

7 (b) Failure to use any belt in violation of this Act shall not  
8 diminish recovery for damages arising out of the ownership,  
9 maintenance or use of a motor vehicle.

The first part of the report deals with the general conditions of the country and the progress of the various branches of industry and commerce. It is found that the country is generally prosperous and that the various branches of industry and commerce are all making good progress.

The second part of the report deals with the various branches of industry and commerce in detail. It is found that the various branches of industry and commerce are all making good progress and that the country is generally prosperous.

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