

HOUSE No. 543

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand Nine

An Act authorizing the establishment of senior citizen safety zones..

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. Chapter 85 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2004 Official Edition,
2 is hereby amended by inserting after section 21A the following section:-

3 Section 21B. Notwithstanding section 2 of chapter 85 of the General Laws, a city may
4 establish by ordinance, on public ways under the care and custody of the city, a senior citizen
5 safety zone, which may be an area adjacent to a facility which may be publicly or privately
6 owned and used as senior citizen housing, a hospital, nursing home or assisted living facility, a
7 community center of which senior activities are conducted on a regular basis or a congregate
8 elderly facility approved as a planned unit development by the city.

9 In a senior citizen safety zone, the city may, by ordinance under the direction of the
10 traffic engineer, take necessary action to reduce vehicular speed by reducing speed limits to not
11 less than 20 miles per hour or such lower speed limit as is set for school zones and by installing
12 signals or appropriate signs and restriping roadways. The traffic engineer may adopt and amend
13 rules and regulations to carry out this section.

14 The city shall notify the state traffic engineer upon the establishment of a senior citizen
15 safety zone. The city shall notify the state traffic engineer of any reduction of speed on a
16 functionally classified local roadway.

17 This section shall not apply to any state highway, numbered route or functionally-
18 classified arterial.

19 SECTION 2. Section 17 of chapter 90 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2004
20 Official Edition, is hereby amended by inserting after the word “hour”, in line 15, the following
21 words:-

22 , or (5) within a senior citizen safety zone which may be established by a city or town as
23 provided in section 21A of chapter 85 at a rate of speed exceeding 20 miles per hour or such
24 lower speed limit as is set for school zones.