

SENATE No. 1900

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand Nine

Resolve An Act relative to driver impairment..

1 **Resolved**, that the automobile is typically the most important method of transportation for
2 adults in the Commonwealth, a license to operate and the ability to drive often is a key element
3 in maintaining independence. However, individual driving must be balanced with public safety.
4 A range of medical problems can affect the ability of adults to drive safely; cognitive impairment
5 plays an increasingly important role in ones ability to operate a motor vehicle, other medical
6 conditions, visual problems, motor problems, flexibility limitations contribute to a persons ability
7 to safely operate a motor vehicle.

8 Therefore a special commission is hereby established for the purpose of making an
9 investigation and study into current laws and regulations relative to the right to have a license to
10 operate and how cognitive impairment may affect that right to operate. Said commission shall
11 consist of 3 members of the Senate appointed by the Senate President; 3 members of the House
12 of Representatives appointed by the Speaker of the House; the Registrar of Motor Vehicles or
13 their designee; the Secretary of Elder Affairs or their designee; 2 persons to be appointed by the
14 governor 1 of whom shall be a representative of AARP of Massachusetts, and one of whom shall
15 be a consumer, a resident of the commonwealth of driving age and holding a valid drivers

16 license; 2 persons to be appointed by the Speaker of the House, one of whom shall be a member
17 of the Massachusetts Psychiatric Society specializing in Geriatric psychiatry, one of whom shall
18 be a member for the Massachusetts Association for Occupational Therapy; 2 persons appointed
19 by the President of the Senate one of whom shall be a member of the Massachusetts Medical
20 Society specializing in brain injuries and one of whom shall represent the auto insurance
21 industry.

22 Said commissions investigation and review shall include but not be limited to the
23 following:

24 Who may report to the to the registry of motor vehicles a drivers impairment; What
25 format and information must that communication include and recommendations to protect the
26 reporter from civil liability;

27 Development of programs within the registry to evaluate the impaired driver including
28 standards of what is an adequate evaluation; formation of multidisciplinary teams of
29 psychiatrist, neuropsychologist, OT, neurologist, social worker, and driving instructor to assist in
30 the development of standards as well as in the conducting of the evaluation;

31 Auto insurance discounts to senior drivers; Dissemination and availability of alternative
32 means of transportation for seniors; Driver reeducation programs cost, availability or discounts;

33 Driving rehabilitation specialists, cost and availability; Health or auto insurance
34 reimbursement for driver reeducation or rehabilitation programs; Process and testing for
35 certain drivers before renewal of a license including online and length of renewal.

36 SECTION 2. Said Commission may consult with any experts it deems necessary
37 particularly neuropsychologists, driving rehabilitation specialists, physicians, social workers,
38 occupational therapists, psychiatrists

39 Said commission shall make its recommendation in the form of legislation no later than
40 December 31, 2007 and shall file such with the clerk of the Senate and the clerk of the House.