

# SENATE . . . . . No. 1989

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## The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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In the Year Two Thousand Nine  
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An Act providing auto insurance special investigators with access to registry of motor vehicle photographs.

*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 16 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2006 Official Edition,  
2   is hereby amended by inserting after section 9 the following section:- Section 9A. (a) For the  
3   purposes of this section, the following words shall have the following meanings:- “Claim”, any  
4   application submitted to a motor vehicle insurer seeking compensation for injuries alleged to  
5   have been sustained in a motor vehicle collision or for compensation for theft or damage as a  
6   result of theft of or from or vandalism to a motor vehicle.

7           “Computerized access”, direct access via computer, including the ability to download text  
8   and images as provided in this section.

9           “Licensee”, a person issued a license or right to operate a motor vehicle by the registry of  
10   motor vehicles.

11          “Driver’s license information”, all information, including photographs, contained on a  
12   driver’s license or permit to operate a motor vehicle issued by the registry of motor vehicles.

13 “Motor vehicle insurers”, motor vehicle insurance carriers that write policies of insurance  
14 for individuals within the commonwealth.

15 (b) Notwithstanding any general or special law, ordinance, rule or regulation to  
16 the contrary, the registry of motor vehicles shall adopt rules and regulations to permit motor  
17 vehicle insurers computerized access, for a fee, to driver’s license information, including  
18 photographs, to the extent necessary to discern the identity of individuals who submit claims  
19 based on having been injured in a motor vehicle collision. The information obtained pursuant to  
20 this statute and the use thereof, shall be restricted to those entities set forth herein and their legal  
21 counsel and only in connection with claims that have been referred to, and accepted by, a special  
22 investigations unit of: motor vehicles insurers; the Insurance Fraud Bureau of Massachusetts; the  
23 National Insurance Crime Bureau, the United States Attorney’s Office, the Federal Bureau of  
24 Investigation, the department of state police; a municipal police department; the attorney general;  
25 or a district attorney, which is conducting an investigation of or prosecuting a criminal case  
26 involving claims in which fraudulent activity is suspected or alleged. Such information shall be  
27 used only to extent necessary to conduct and complete an investigation of a motor vehicle  
28 insurance claim presented by or on behalf of a claimant or to prosecute a criminal case against a  
29 claimant or any co-conspirator and shall not otherwise be disseminated or published to any  
30 individual or agency, but may be transmitted among the entities and agencies authorized to  
31 receive this information pursuant to this section.