

HOUSE No. 1818

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Michael S. Day

To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in General Court assembled:

The undersigned legislators and/or citizens respectfully petition for the adoption of the accompanying bill:

An Act relative to license plates.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:
<i>Michael S. Day</i>	<i>31st Middlesex</i>
<i>Leonard Mirra</i>	<i>2nd Essex</i>
<i>José F. Tosado</i>	<i>9th Hampden</i>
<i>Chris Walsh</i>	<i>6th Middlesex</i>

HOUSE No. 1818

By Mr. Day of Stoneham, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 1818) of Michael S. Day and others relative to the display of motor vehicle or trailer license plates. Transportation.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

**In the One Hundred and Ninetieth General Court
(2017-2018)**

An Act relative to license plates.

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 6 of Chapter 90 as appearing in the Massachusetts General Laws is
2 here by amended by striking the section in its entirety and inserting the following new section:--

3 Section 6: Display of number plates; temporary number plates

4 Section 6. Every motor vehicle or trailer registered under this chapter when operated in or
5 on any way in this commonwealth shall have its register number displayed conspicuously
6 thereon by the number plates furnished by the registrar in accordance with section two or five or
7 by temporary number plates authorized by the registrar as hereinafter provided, one number plate
8 to be attached at the front and one at the rear of said motor vehicle, and one number plate to be
9 attached at the rear of said trailer, but if the registrar issues but one number plate it shall be
10 attached to the rear of the vehicle so that it shall always be plainly visible. The said number
11 plates shall be kept clean with the numbers legible and shall not be obscured in any manner by
12 the installation of any device obscuring said numbers, and during the period when the vehicle or

13 trailer is required to display lights the rear register number shall be illuminated so as to be plainly
14 visible at a distance of sixty feet. The following uses shall not be considered a violation of this
15 section: (i) the use of a trailer hitch installed on a vehicle in a normal or customary manner, (ii) a
16 tolling transponder that is attached to the vehicle in a manner required by the issuing authority,
17 (iii) a wheelchair lift or wheelchair carrier that is temporarily attached to a vehicle in a normal or
18 customary manner, (iv) a trailer being towed by a vehicle, or (v) a bicycle or motorcycle rack
19 that is temporarily attached in a normal or customary manner. No number plates other than such
20 as are procured from the registrar or such as may be authorized by him for temporary use, except
21 as provided in section three, shall be displayed on any motor vehicle or trailer so operated;
22 provided, that a motor vehicle or trailer which by reason of its interstate operation is registered in
23 this commonwealth and elsewhere may display the register number plates of this and any other
24 state or country in which it is registered, if, while being operated on the ways of this
25 commonwealth, the number plates furnished by the registrar, or temporary number plates
26 authorized by him as hereinafter provided, are displayed as required hereby. If any number plate
27 supplied by the registrar is lost or mutilated or if the register number thereon becomes illegible,
28 the owner or person in control of the vehicle for which said number plate was furnished shall
29 make application for a new number plate, and thereupon the registrar shall issue to such
30 applicant a permit allowing him to place a temporary number plate bearing his register number
31 on said vehicle until a number plate of the regular design is made and delivered to said applicant;
32 provided, that all such temporary number plates and the register numbers thereon shall conform
33 to the regular number plates and be displayed as nearly as may be as herein provided for said
34 regular number plates. Any motor vehicle or trailer may, if duly registered, be operated, pushed,
35 drawn or towed or remain upon any way between the hours of twelve o'clock noon on the date

36 on which its registration expires and twelve o'clock noon on the following day, if the following
37 day is the first day of the new registration period, and if such vehicle or trailer displays its
38 register number for either registration period as otherwise required by this section.