

HOUSE No. 939

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Angelo J. Puppolo, Jr.

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 motor vehicle homicide.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:
<i>Angelo J. Puppolo, Jr.</i>	<i>12th Hampden</i>
<i>William L. Crocker, Jr.</i>	<i>2nd Barnstable</i>
<i>Timothy R. Whelan</i>	<i>1st Barnstable</i>

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By Mr. Puppolo of Springfield, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 939) of Angelo J. Puppolo, Jr., William Crocker and Timothy R. Whelan relative to the penalty for the negligent operation of a motor vehicle resulting in the death of another person. The Judiciary.

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION
SEE HOUSE, NO. 1553 OF 2015-2016.]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

An Act relative to motor vehicle homicide.

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. Subdivision (2) of section 24 of chapter 90 of the General Laws, as
2 appearing in the 2006 Official Edition, is hereby amended by inserting, after paragraph (a), the
3 following paragraph:-

4 (a ¼) Whoever, upon any way or in any place to which the public has a right of access,
5 or any place to which members of the public have access, as invitees or licensees, operates a
6 motor vehicle recklessly, or operates such vehicle negligently so that the lives or safety of the
7 public might be endangered and by any such operation, causes the death of another person, shall
8 be punished by imprisonment in the state prison for not less than 2 ½ years nor more than 20
9 years. The sentence imposed upon such person shall not be suspended, nor shall any person
10 convicted under this paragraph be eligible for probation, parole, or furlough or receive any

11 deduction from his sentence until such person has served at least 1 year of such sentence;
12 provided, however, that the commissioner of correction may, on the recommendation of the
13 warden, superintendent, or other person in charge of a correctional institution, or the
14 administrator of a county correctional institution, grant to an offender committed under this
15 subsection a temporary release in the custody of an officer of such institution for the following
16 purposes only: to attend the funeral of a relative; to visit a critically ill relative; to obtain
17 emergency medical or psychiatric services unavailable at said institution; or to engage in
18 employment pursuant to a work release program. Prosecutions commenced under this paragraph
19 shall not be continued without a finding nor placed on file.

20 SECTION 2. Paragraph (b) of subdivision (2) of said section 24 of said chapter 90 of
21 the General Laws, as appearing in the 2006 Official Edition, is hereby amended by inserting,
22 after the letter “(a)” in line 811, the following:- , paragraph (a ¹/₄)

23 SECTION 3. Paragraph (c) of subdivision (2) of said section 24 of said chapter 90 of the
24 General Laws, as appearing in the 2006 Official Edition, is hereby amended by inserting, after
25 the letter “(a)” in line 828, the following:- , (a ¹/₄)

26 SECTION 4. Said paragraph (c) of said subdivision (2) of said section 24 of said chapter
27 90, as so appearing, is hereby further amended by inserting, after the word “to:” in line 830, the
28 following:- (i) any person convicted of a violation of paragraph (a ¹/₄) until 20 years after the
29 date of revocation following his conviction.

30 SECTION 5. This act shall be known as the Russell "R.J." Potter Act.