

HOUSE No. 2846

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Carolyn C. Dykema

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 the safety of teenage drivers.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:
<i>Carolyn C. Dykema</i>	<i>8th Middlesex</i>
<i>Josh S. Cutler</i>	<i>6th Plymouth</i>
<i>Michael O. Moore</i>	<i>Second Worcester</i>
<i>Timothy R. Whelan</i>	<i>1st Barnstable</i>
<i>Jeffrey N. Roy</i>	<i>10th Norfolk</i>

HOUSE No. 2846

By Ms. Dykema of Holliston, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 2846) of Carolyn C. Dykema and others relative to requiring wireless service providers to offer "safe driving" apps that disable texting while driving. Telecommunications, Utilities and Energy.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

**In the One Hundred and Ninety-First General Court
(2019-2020)**

An Act relative to the safety of teenage drivers.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1 Chapter 166 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2016 Official Edition, is hereby
2 amended by inserting after section 15E the following section:-

3 Section 15F. (a) As used in this section, the following words shall, unless the context
4 requires otherwise, have the following meanings:-

5 “Application”, a small, specialized software program capable of being downloaded onto a
6 wireless device.

7 “Family plan”, a wireless service plan provided to subscribers with more than 1 end user,
8 whether or not such users are members of the same family, which allows such end users to share
9 the phone, text and data allotments of the wireless service plan.

10 “Whitelist”, a list of preapproved phone numbers that a wireless device may contact
11 despite an application’s being enabled that would otherwise prohibit outgoing calls.

12 “Wireless device”, a mobile telephone or any handheld communication device capable
13 of: (1) accessing the internet; (2) downloading an application; and (3) sending and receiving a
14 text message or other electronic message.

15 “Wireless service”, the transmission of communications, including voice, text and data,
16 between end users via a wireless device.

17 “Wireless service provider”, any entity that provides wireless service to a subscriber or
18 end user who resides in the commonwealth.

19 (b) In order to effectively promote safe driving by teenagers, wireless service providers
20 shall provide, or make available for download at least 1 application that prohibits texting while
21 driving by end users under the age of 18. At least 1 such application shall be provided, or made
22 available for download, at no cost to the family plan subscriber for each end user under the age
23 of 18. The application, at a minimum, shall provide the following: (1) activates a preset auto-
24 reply message to incoming text messages; (2) disables emailing, incoming and outgoing calls,
25 texting and internet browsing; (3) allows for a whitelist (4) allows a user to quickly and easily
26 dial 911; and (5) prevents a user who is a minor from overriding the application until a motor
27 vehicle is no longer in motion.