

HOUSE No. 1871

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Christopher M. Markey

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 reckless operation of motor vehicles.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	DATE ADDED:
<i>Christopher M. Markey</i>	<i>9th Bristol</i>	<i>1/17/2025</i>
<i>Paul McMurtry</i>	<i>11th Norfolk</i>	<i>11/19/2025</i>

HOUSE No. 1871

By Representative Markey of Dartmouth, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 1871) of Christopher M. Markey relative to the penalties for reckless operation of motor vehicles. The Judiciary.

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION
SEE HOUSE, NO. 1663 OF 2023-2024.]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

**In the One Hundred and Ninety-Fourth General Court
(2025-2026)**

An Act relative to the reckless operation of motor vehicles.

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. Paragraph (a) of subdivision (2) of section 24 of chapter 90 of the General
2 Laws, as appearing in the 2022 Official Edition, is hereby amended by striking out, in lines 766
3 and 767, the words “recklessly, or operates such a vehicle”.

4 SECTION 2. Said paragraph (a) of said subdivision (2) of said section 24 of said chapter
5 90, as so appearing, is hereby further amended by inserting after the first paragraph the following
6 4 paragraphs:-

7 Whoever upon any way or in any place to which the public has a right of access, or any
8 place to which members of the public have access as invitees or licensees, operates a motor
9 vehicle recklessly, shall be punished by imprisonment in the state prison for not more than 5

10 years, or by imprisonment for not more than 2½ years in a jail or house of correction and by a
11 fine of not less than \$1,000 nor more than \$5,000.

12 Whoever upon any way or in any place to which the public has a right of access, or any
13 place to which members of the public have access as invitees or licensees, operates a motor
14 vehicle recklessly and by such operation causes the serious bodily injury of any person, shall be
15 punished by imprisonment in the state prison for not more than 10 years, or by imprisonment for
16 not less than 1 year nor more than 2½ years in a jail or house of correction and by a fine of not
17 less than \$1,000 nor more than \$5,000. For the purpose of this section the term “serious bodily
18 injury” shall have the same meaning as in subdivision (3) of section 24L.

19 Whoever upon any way or in any place to which the public has a right of access, or any
20 place to which members of the public have access as invitees or licensees, operates a motor
21 vehicle recklessly, and by such reckless operation causes the death of another, shall be punished
22 by imprisonment in the state prison for not more than 20 years, and by a fine of not more than
23 \$25,000.

24 For purposes of this section “reckless” shall be defined as: violating 1 or more moving
25 violations while traveling at least 25 miles per hour over the speed limit.

26 SECTION 3. Subsection (a) of section 24G of said chapter 90, as so appearing, is hereby
27 amended by striking out, in line 9, the words “recklessly or”.