

SENATE No.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Joanne M. Comerford

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 promoting passenger safety on motorcoaches.

PETITION OF:

NAME:

Joanne M. Comerford

DISTRICT/ADDRESS:

Hampshire, Franklin and Worcester

SENATE No.

By Ms. Comerford, a petition (accompanied by bill) (subject to Joint Rule 12) of Joanne M. Comerford for legislation to educate the public on the importance of wearing a seatbelt while riding in a vehicle carrying many passengers; used for public transport. Public Safety and Homeland Security.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

An Act promoting passenger safety on motorcoaches.

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 1 of chapter 90 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2022
2 Official Edition, is hereby amended by inserting after the definition of “Mobile telephone” the
3 following definition:-

4 “Motorcoach”, a bus characterized by an elevated passenger deck located over a baggage
5 compartment, which transports passengers for hire as a business between fixed and regular
6 termini or under a charter license. The term “motorcoach” shall not include city buses operated
7 by a public transit system or school buses.

8 SECTION 2. Section 13A of said chapter 90, as so appearing, is hereby amended by
9 inserting after the words “vanpool vehicle”, in lines 2 and 3, the following word:- , motorcoach

10 SECTION 3. Said section 13A of said chapter 90, as so appearing, is hereby further
11 amended by inserting before the word “buses”, in line 22, the following words:- standard city.

12 SECTION 4. Said section 13A of said chapter 90, as so appearing, is hereby further
13 amended by adding the following paragraph:-

14 The operator of a motorcoach service shall include in its ticket purchase agreement a
15 provision stating that the passenger agrees to wear a seatbelt when seated while the motorcoach
16 is in motion. The operator of a motorcoach service shall require its drivers to make an
17 announcement to the passengers prior to the motorcoach's departure instructing the passengers to
18 wear seatbelts when seated while the motorcoach is in motion.

19 SECTION 5. The department of public utilities shall conduct a public information
20 campaign to educate the public on the importance of wearing a seatbelt while riding in a
21 motorcoach, as defined in section 1 of chapter 90 of the General Laws, and the safety risks of not
22 wearing a seatbelt on a motorcoach.