

Massachusetts House of Representatives Draft Bill Summary

Bill #: H.4231

Title: An Act authorizing the city of Cambridge to expand the options available to issue notices of violation for parking enforcement above the limits set forth in M.G.L. C. 90, §20A $\frac{1}{2}$ or other applicable state laws

Sponsor: Rep. Marjorie C. Decker

Committee: Joint Committee on Municipalities and Regional Government

Hearing Date: July 22, 2025

Current Law: Mass. General Laws Chapter 90, Section 20 A1/2 regulates parking violations; tags; appearance; failure to appear; adjudication by mail in the cities of Boston and Cambridge. The law provides for:

- The appointment of a parking clerk, who shall report to the council or aldermen of a city, the council or board of selectmen of a town and shall supervise and coordinate the processing of parking notices.
- Every police officer who takes cognizance of a violation of any provision of any rule, regulation, order, ordinance or by-law regulating the parking of motor vehicles established for their respective city or town, forthwith to give the offender a notice ...
- The tag shall be affixed securely to the motor vehicle and shall contain, but shall not be limited to: the make, color and registration number of the vehicle involved and the state of issuance of said registration number, the date, time and place of the violation, the specific violation charged and, if a meter violation, the number of said meter, the name and badge number of the officer and his division, a schedule of established fines, instructions for responding to the violation, etc.
- The law also provides a schedule of fines, penalties for failure to pay or respond, etc.

Summary: Section 1 of the bill would allow the officer, their supervisor or other person authorized to issue notices of parking violations to mail the violation to the mailing address on record with the Registry of Motor Vehicles, or if out of state then under the records of the state or country where the vehicle is registered. The certificate of the officer or other person mailing the notice would be sufficient evidence that the violation had been mailed and would be admissible in any legal proceedings.

Section 2 of the bill authorizes the city to also use automated license plate readers or similar parking monitoring technologies to issue notices of parking violations. This would

be in addition to existing methods of delivering such notices. Photos or data of violations would serve as sufficient evidence that the officer was cognizant (aware) of a violation.

Section 3 provides that Issuance of notices of violation through the use of ALPR readers or similar parking monitoring technologies shall be done in the same manner prescribed in the law for the mailing of notices of violation.

Section 4 states that the issuance of notices of violation through any method under this act shall require having evidence that the alleged violation occurred, in the form of photographs of the violation, monitoring data, or other evidence of the violation from the enforcement officer or the ALPR reader and similar parking monitoring technologies.

Section 5 states that the act would take effect immediately upon passage.

Notes: Language approved unanimously 9-0 by a vote of the Cambridge City Council during meeting dated March 31, 2025.