

HOUSE No. 2947

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Bruce J. Ayers

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 providing improved access to taxicabs for persons with disabilities.

PETITION OF:

NAME:

Bruce J. Ayers

DISTRICT/ADDRESS:

1st Norfolk

HOUSE No. 2947

By Mr. Ayers of Quincy, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 2947) of Bruce J. Ayers for legislation to provide improved access to taxicabs for persons with disabilities. Transportation.

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION
SEE HOUSE, NO. 3368 OF 2013-2014.]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the One Hundred and Eighty-Ninth General Court
(2015-2016)

An Act relative to providing improved access to taxicabs for persons with disabilities.

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. Chapter 6C of the General Laws is hereby amended by adding the
2 following section:-

3 76. (a) As used in this section, "accessible taxicab" shall mean any vehicle that:

4 (1) is equipped with a lift, ramp, or any other device, arrangement or alteration, so it is
5 capable of transporting persons with physical disabilities, including those who use wheelchairs,
6 scooters and similar devices while they remain seated in their wheelchairs, scooters or similar
7 devices;

8 (2) complies with the specifications set forth in regulations promulgated under the
9 Americans with Disabilities Act and codified in sections 38.23, 38.25 and 38.31 of title 49 of the
10 Code of Federal Regulations, whether or not those regulations would apply under federal law;

11 (3) is equipped with an assistive listening system for persons with hearing impairment
12 that is connected with any intercom, video or audio system, when such a system is installed;

13 (4) assures that the technology utilized by taxicabs is compliant with the standards
14 promulgated by the commissioner of transportation; provided that a local authority with
15 oversight over taxicabs, limousines and livery vehicles may conduct pilot programs testing new
16 systems;

17 (5) complies with federal regulations promulgated pursuant to the Americans with
18 Disabilities Act applicable to vans under 22 feet in length, by the federal Department of
19 Transportation, in Code of Federal Regulations, title 49, parts 37 and 38, and by the federal
20 Architectural and Transportation Barriers Compliance Board, in Code of Federal Regulations,
21 title 36, sections 1192.23 et seq., and the Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standards, Code of
22 Federal Regulations, title 49, part 571, that is hacked-up, as that term is defined in section 3-
23 01(a) of this chapter, to an accessible medallion or any other medallion on or after June 25,
24 2015; or

25 (6) complies with this section; provided, however, that the rear bumper has been cut or
26 otherwise modified to allow the installation of a rear entry ramp for wheelchair access, shall
27 nonetheless be approved for hack-up as an accessible taxicab if:

28 (i) the rear bumper is reinforced and the rear bumper modification is approved by the
29 original equipment manufacturer;

30 (ii) the vehicle modifications meet or exceed any applicable Federal Motor Vehicle
31 Safety Standards crash testing requirements; and

32 (iii) If the rear door lock mechanism of the vehicle is modified, the modification must
33 meet or exceed Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standards and the lock mechanism must be affixed
34 to the vehicle chassis, not the ramp assembly, unless a secondary lock is provided that is affixed
35 to the vehicle chassis.

36 (b) Any person with a hackney license issued pursuant to section 22 of chapter 40 shall
37 have at least 1 accessible taxicab.

38 SECTION 2. The secretary of transportation shall promulgate any rules, regulations and
39 standards necessary to give effect of the provisions of this act, including, but not limited to rules,
40 regulations and standards concerning the standardization of assistive listening technology
41 available in taxicabs and the content of signs available in taxicabs to visually impaired persons.