

HOUSE No. 03304

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 passage of the accompanying bill:

An Act to provide improved access to taxicabs for persons with disabilities.

PETITION OF:

NAME:

Bruce J. Ayers

Thomas P. Kennedy

DISTRICT/ADDRESS:

1st Norfolk

Second Plymouth and Bristol

HOUSE No. 03304

By Mr. Ayers of Quincy, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 3304) of Bruce J. Ayers and Thomas P. Kennedy for legislation to provide improved access to taxicabs for persons with disabilities. Transportation.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand Eleven

An Act to provide 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 The term “accessible taxicab” shall refer to a taxicab that complies with federal regulations
- 2 promulgated pursuant to the Americans
- 3 with Disabilities Act applicable to vans under 22 feet in length, by the federal Department of
- 4 Transportation, in Code of Federal
- 5 Regulations, title 49, parts 37 and 38, and by the federal Architectural and Transportation
- 6 Barriers Compliance Board, in Code of
- 7 Federal Regulations, title 36, sections 1192.23 et seq., and the Federal Motor Vehicle Safety
- 8 Standards, Code of Federal
- 9 Regulations, title 49, part 571, that is hacked-up, as that term is defined in section 3-01(a) of this
- 10 chapter, to an accessible medallion or any other medallion on or after June 25, 2013.

11 A vehicle that complies with this section, except that the rear bumper has been cut or otherwise
12 modified to allow the installation of a reentry ramp for wheelchair access, shall nonetheless be
13 approved for hack-up as an accessible taxicab if:

14 (1) The rear bumper is reinforced and the rear bumper modification is approved by the OEM;

15 (2) The vehicle modifications meet or exceed any applicable Federal Motor Vehicle Safety
16 Standards crash testing requirements;

17 (3) If the rear door lock mechanism of the vehicle is modified, the modification must meet or
18 exceed Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standards and the lock mechanism must be affixed to the
19 vehicle chassis, not the ramp assembly, unless a secondary
20 lock is provided that is affixed to the vehicle chassis.

21 That "accessible taxicab" shall mean any vehicle that (1) is equipped with a lift, ramp, or any
22 other device, arrangement or alteration, so it is capable of transporting persons with physical disa
23 bilities, including those who use wheelchairs, scooters and similar devices while they remain
24 seated in their wheelchairs, scooters or similar devices; (2) complies with the specifications set
25 forth in regulations promulgated under the Americans with disabilities act and codified at 49
26 c.f.r. sections 38.23, 38.25 and 38.31, as amended, whether or not those regulations would apply
27 under federal law; (3) is equipped with an assistive listening system for persons with hearing
28 impairment that is connected with any intercom, video or audio system, when such a system is
29 installed; (4) assures that the technology utilized by taxicabs is compliant with the standards
30 promulgated by the commissioner of transportation; provided that a local authority with
31 oversight over taxicabs, limousines and livery vehicles may conduct pilot programs testing new
32 systems;

33 The secretary of transportation shall promulgate any rules, regulations and standards necessary to
34 give effect of the provisions of this act, including, but not limited to rules, regulations and
35 standards concerning the standardization of assistive listening technology available in taxicabs
36 and the content of signs available in taxicabs to visually impaired persons. -