

HOUSE No. 4289

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, January 13, 2020.

The committee on Municipalities and Regional Government, to whom was referred the petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 1792) of Carlos Gonzalez and others relative to authorizing cities and towns to establish reduced maximum tow rates during certain declared emergencies, reports recommending that the accompanying bill (House, No. 4289) ought to pass.

For the committee,

JAMES J. O'DAY.

FILED ON: 1/10/2020

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

**In the One Hundred and Ninety-First General Court
(2019-2020)**

An Act authorizing cities and towns to establish reduced maximum tow rates and parking fines during certain declared emergencies.

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 20A½ of Chapter 90 of the General Laws is hereby amended by
2 adding the following paragraph:-

3 A city or town which has accepted this section may establish a reduced maximum
4 parking ticket rate when towing is ordered by the police or other public authority due to a
5 parking violation that occurs during a declared snow emergency, natural disaster or extreme
6 weather-related emergency, or state of emergency related to the threat of a natural disaster;
7 provided, however, that the reduced maximum parking violation rate shall be equal to one-half of
8 the maximum rate otherwise applicable in said city or town pursuant to this section.

9 SECTION 2. Chapter 159B of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after
10 section 6B the following section:-

11 Section 6B1/2. A city or town that accepts this section may establish a reduced maximum
12 rate for the involuntary towing away of motor vehicles within the city or town’s jurisdiction
13 when such towing is ordered by the police or other public authority due to a parking violation

14 during a declared snow emergency, natural disaster or extreme weather-related emergency, or
15 state of emergency related to the threat of a natural disaster; provided, that the reduced maximum
16 rate shall be equal to one-half of the maximum rate otherwise applicable in said city or town
17 pursuant to section 6B. A city or town that establishes a reduced maximum rate pursuant to this
18 section shall include, in any contract between said city or town and a tow service provider to
19 provide tow services, a provision stating this reduced maximum rate.