

SENATE No. 1260

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Jennifer L. Flanagan

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 amusement devices.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:
<i>Jennifer L. Flanagan</i>	<i>Worcester and Middlesex</i>
<i>Brian M. Ashe</i>	<i>2nd Hampden</i>
<i>James B. Eldridge</i>	<i>Middlesex and Worcester</i>

SENATE No. 1260

By Ms. Flanagan, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 1260) of Jennifer L. Flanagan, Brian M. Ashe and James B. Eldridge for legislation relative to amusement devices. Public Safety and Homeland Security.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

An Act relative to amusement devices.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1 Chapter 140 of the General Laws is hereby amended by striking out section 205A, as
2 appearing in the 2006 Official Edition, and inserting in place thereof the following sections:
3 Section 205A. Amusement Rides and Devices; Board; establishment; membership; appointment;
4 terms; compensation; expenses; personnel There shall be in the department, but not under the
5 control of the commissioner of public safety, an amusements and attractions board. This board
6 shall consist of the commissioner or a member of the department designated by the
7 commissioner from time to time, and ten persons appointed by the governor for terms of four
8 years, of whom two shall be persons who each own or operate an amusement park, two shall be
9 persons who each own or operate a carnival or mobile show, two shall be persons who each own
10 or operate a fair or fairgrounds, two shall be persons who own or operate a waterpark or an
11 family entertainment center, one shall be a person engaged in a business generally related to
12 amusements and attractions business, and one a representative of the public. Notwithstanding the
13 foregoing, the terms of the initial six gubernatorial appointees shall be as follows: two appointees

14 for a two-year term; two appointees for a three-year term; and, two appointees for a four-year
15 term. The governor shall from time to time designate one of the appointed members to serve as
16 chairperson. The commissioner of public safety shall provide the board with such clerical and
17 other assistance and inspectional personnel as may be necessary to carry out the duties of the
18 board. This section shall not apply to recreational tramways, as defined by section 71I of chapter
19 143, manually-operated amusement rides with coined devices, skill games or playground
20 equipment. Section 205B. Definitions As used in sections two hundred and five A to two
21 hundred and five K, inclusive, the following words shall, unless the context otherwise requires,
22 have the following meanings: “Amusement Park” is a permanent location for the operation of
23 amusement rides and devices which may include a family entertainment center (FEC).
24 “Amusement Ride or Amusement Device” is a device or combination of devices or elements that
25 carry, convey, or direct one or more persons over or through a fixed or restricted course or within
26 a defined area for the primary purpose of amusement or entertainment in an open or enclosed
27 location and which may be fixed to a location or moved from location to location or as may be
28 further defined by ASTM International. The term “amusement ride or amusement device” shall
29 include the following: (1) Ferris Wheel; (2) Carousel; (3) Inclined railway; (4) Circular Ride; (5)
30 Flat Ride; (6) High Ride; and (7) Kiddie Ride “ASTM” is ASTM International, also known as
31 the American Society for Testing and Materials International. “Board” is the Amusement Ride
32 and Device Board. “Carnival” or “Mobile Show” is a mobile enterprise principally devoted to
33 offering amusement or entertainment to the public in, upon, or by means of portable amusement
34 rides or devices or temporary structures in any number or combination, whether or not associated
35 with other structures or forms of public attraction. “Circular Rides” are amusement rides whose
36 motion is primarily rotary, in a fixed or variable plane from horizontal to 45 degrees above

37 horizontal. “Designer/engineer” is a party that establishes and describes the configuration of an
38 amusement ride or amusement device, or the components thereof, establishes strength and
39 fatigue life, designs and develops electrical/electronic control systems, and defines inspection
40 criteria. “Facility” is the area designated by the person or organization having operational
41 responsibility for certain amusement rides and amusement devices which is to be administered or
42 operated as a single enterprise. “Flat Rides” are amusement rides that operate on a single level,
43 whether over a controlled, fixed course or track, or confined to a limited area of operation. “High
44 Rides” are amusement rides whose motion is in a fixed or variable plane from horizontal to
45 vertical. “Inflatable Amusement Devices” are amusement devices that incorporate a structuring
46 and mechanical system and employ a high-strength fabric or film that achieves strength, shape,
47 and stability by pretensioning with internal air pressure, all of which are intended to provide an
48 enclosed area for the self-enjoyment of those so confined within. “Installation or erection” is the
49 actual act of onsite construction or the physical setting up and making ready for use of an
50 amusement ride or device. “Inspector” is a person who, through education, experience, and
51 training, is able to properly evaluate an amusement ride or device to determine its conformance,
52 within the scope of the inspection, with ASTM International Committee F24 standards. “Kiddie
53 Rides” are amusement rides designed primarily for use by children younger than twelve years of
54 age. “Maintenance Mechanic” is an individual designated by the owner of an amusement device
55 as the person responsible for overseeing the maintenance of amusement rides or amusement
56 devices and who has a valid NAARSO (National Association of Amusement Ride Safety
57 Officials) Level I or II certification, AIMS (Amusement Industry Manufacturers & Suppliers
58 International) Level I or II maintenance certification, or a certification by a similar national
59 organization as approved by the board, or a person holding a Bachelors of Science in

60 engineering, and who also has a minimum of three years experience in the amusement industry,
61 or a person certified by the board as a certified maintenance mechanic. “Major Modification” is
62 any change in either the structural or operational characteristics of an amusement ride or
63 amusement device which will alter its performance from that specified in the manufacturer’s
64 design criteria. “Manufacturer” is the party producing the amusement ride or amusement device
65 and performing major modifications and may also include the designer/engineer. “Operator” is a
66 person, including the Commonwealth or any political subdivision thereof, having direct control
67 of the starting, stopping, or speed of an amusement ride or amusement device. “Owner” is the
68 title holder or lessee, including an agency of the Commonwealth or a political subdivision
69 thereof, of amusement rides or amusement devices administered or operated as a single
70 enterprise. “Patron” is any person utilizing any amusement ride or amusement device that is
71 under the control of an operator for the purpose of amusement or entertainment or a self directed
72 amusement device. Section 205C. Rules and regulations After a hearing, the board shall adopt,
73 and may from time to time amend or revoke, rules and regulations in conformance with the
74 standards and guidelines of ASTM for the inspection, assembly, erection, installation, design,
75 construction, major modification, operation, and maintenance of amusement rides and
76 amusement devices and for the licensing and certification of inspectors thereof as provided by
77 Mass. Gen. Laws c. 146, section 60, et seq. The board shall in like manner adopt, and from time
78 to time amend or revoke, rules and regulations for a system of signs to be used by amusement
79 ride and amusement device owners and operators in order to promote the safety of patrons,
80 workers, employees and visitors. Such system shall incorporate standards in general use in the
81 amusement industry to evaluate amusement rides and amusement devices and to adequately alert
82 patrons to the known risks associated with amusement rides and amusement devices and to

83 certain laws, rules and regulations. The attorney general shall assist the board in framing such
84 rules and regulations. Section 205D. Licenses; issuance No amusement ride or device shall be
85 operated commercially unless a license for such operation has been issued by the board. Such
86 license shall be issued for a term of not longer than one year, unless revoked for cause by the
87 board, upon application therefore on a form furnished by the board, and upon a determination by
88 the board that the amusement ride or amusement device conforms to ASTM standards and the
89 rules and regulations of the board. Such license shall not be issued without the provision, at least
90 ten (10) days prior to the commencement of operation of an amusement ride or amusement
91 device by the applicant, of (1) a certificate of insurance confirming the existence of an insurance
92 policy for liability coverage in an amount established by the board, but not less than \$1,000,000,
93 from a carrier authorized to do business in the Commonwealth with a ten-day notice of
94 cancelation provision to the Commonwealth and (2) a report, satisfactory to the board, from an
95 inspector who is not an employee of the Commonwealth, certified for competency by the board.
96 In making such determination the board may rely upon the report of an inspector certified by it in
97 accordance with its rules and regulations. A license issued by the board shall be valid throughout
98 the Commonwealth. An amusement ride or amusement device shall not be operated at any time
99 without the aforesaid liability insurance coverage. Section 205E. Fees. Each application for a
100 license or a renewal thereof shall be accompanied by payment of a fee for each amusement ride
101 and amusement device. Each application from a person who is not employed by the
102 Commonwealth for a certificate of competency, or a renewal thereof, as an inspector of
103 amusement rides and amusement devices shall be accompanied by payment of a fee. Each
104 application for a certificate of competency, or a renewal thereof, for a maintenance mechanic of
105 amusement rides and amusement devices shall be accompanied by payment of a fee. The

106 amounts of such fees, after recommendation of the board, shall be determined annually by the
107 commissioner of administration under the provision of section three B of chapter seven. Section
108 205F. Orders; appeal Any inspector or applicant for a certificate of competency to be an
109 inspector of amusement rides and amusement devices who is aggrieved by a final decision
110 approved by the commissioner pursuant to Mass. Gen. Laws c. 146, section 63 may appeal
111 therefrom to the board. Any owner or inspector, who is not an employee of the Commonwealth,
112 or any operator who is aggrieved by any order of the board may appeal therefrom to the superior
113 court. No such appeal shall suspend the operation of the order made by the board; provided that,
114 the superior court may suspend the order of the board pending the determination of such appeal
115 whenever, in the opinion of the court, justice may require such suspension. The superior court
116 shall hear such appeal at the earliest convenient day and shall enter such decree as justice may
117 require. Section 205G. Duties of owners; manufacturers; inspectors (1) An owner shall: (a)
118 conspicuously place within the facility, in such form, size, and location as the board may require,
119 notice in plain language, of the statute of limitations and notice period established in section
120 205I; (b) maintain a sign system in all facilities in accordance with rules and regulations
121 promulgated by the board and shall be responsible for the maintenance and operation of facilities
122 under its control in a reasonably safe condition or manner; provided, however, that an owner
123 shall not be liable for death or damages to persons or property, while at an amusement facility,
124 which arise out of any risk inherent in the amusement facility activities; (c) engage or employ at
125 least one person as a maintenance mechanic certified by the board as qualified to oversee the
126 operation, maintenance, and inspection of amusement rides and amusement devices; (d)
127 immediately close down an amusement ride or amusement device in the event of an “on ride or
128 device incident” or a “loading or unloading incident” resulting in serious injury requiring

129 immediate admission and overnight hospitalization and observation by a licensed physician
130 occurring as a result of a specific amusement ride or amusement device provided that the owner
131 has notice of such admission to a hospital; (e) based on the recommendations of the
132 manufacturer of a ride, each owner shall implement a program of maintenance, testing and
133 inspection conforming to ASTM standards. (2) A manufacturer of an amusement ride or
134 amusement device shall provide, with the delivery of each ride or device: (a) documented
135 maintenance and operational instructions in the English language; (b) a written inspection
136 procedure in the English language. Any change to any inspection procedure that is deemed
137 essential by the manufacturer as a result of information not available to the manufacturer at the
138 time of initial delivery shall be communicated to all known owners; and, otherwise conform to
139 ASTM standards (3) An inspector shall: (a) perform inspections complying with all appropriate
140 safety procedures; (b) provide, upon the owner's request, written documentation of inspection
141 activities; and, otherwise conform to ASTM standards. Section 205H. Duties of patrons A
142 patron: (1) shall not embark upon or disembark from an amusement ride or amusement device
143 except at a designated location and during designated hours of operation; (2) shall not throw or
144 expel any object from any amusement ride or amusement device while riding thereon; (3) shall
145 not act in any manner while riding on an amusement ride or amusement device that may interfere
146 with its proper or safe operation; (4) shall not engage in any type of conduct that may injure any
147 person or property; (5) shall not place any object in the track of an amusement ride or
148 amusement device that may cause injury to any third party or property; (6) shall, while operating
149 any patron-operated amusement ride or amusement device, maintain control of his or her speed
150 and course at all times; (7) shall read all instructions before boarding any amusement ride or
151 amusement device; (8) shall be presumed to have sufficient abilities to use any amusement ride

152 or amusement device the patron boards and shall follow any written or oral instruction given
153 regarding its use; (9) shall not embark on any amusement ride or amusement device without
154 authority of the operator; (10) shall not enter into any facility or portion thereof that has been
155 designated closed; any person entering a closed area of a facility shall be responsible for any
156 death or injury resulting from his or her action; (11) shall be presumed to know his or her own
157 capability to ride amusement rides and amusement devices; (12) shall be presumed to know of
158 the existence of certain unavoidable risks inherent in the riding of amusement rides and
159 amusement devices, and shall assume the risk of injury or loss caused by such inherent risks;
160 (13) shall, before entering onto or embarking on any amusement ride or amusement device, have
161 control of clothing and other apparel for the purpose of restraining or preventing any item from
162 being caught or entangled in the amusement ride or device or falling or flying off to the
163 detriment of other patrons; and, (14) who fails to heed a warning issued by an owner or operator
164 of an amusement ride or amusement device shall forfeit his or her amusement ride or amusement
165 device use privileges and may be refused further use of an amusement ride or amusement device.
166 Section 205I. Actions against facility owners or operators; limitations For the purpose of sections
167 205A to 205K, inclusive, in any action brought against an amusement ride or amusement device
168 facility owner or operator, based on negligence, evidence that the conduct of an owner or
169 operator has conformed with the provisions of this chapter and the rules or regulations of the
170 board made pursuant to section 205C of this Chapter shall be evidence of due care. No action
171 may be maintained against an owner or operator for injury to a patron unless, as a condition
172 precedent thereof, the person so injured or his representative shall, within ninety days of the
173 incident, give to such owner and operator notice, by registered mail, of the name and address of
174 the person injured, and the time, place, and cause of the injury. Failure to give the foregoing

175 notice shall bar recovery, unless the court finds under the circumstances of the particular case
176 that such facility owner or operator had actual knowledge of said injury or had reasonable
177 opportunity to learn of said injury within said ninety-day period, and was otherwise not
178 substantially prejudiced by reason of not having been provided actual written notice of said
179 injury within said period. In any case in which lack of written notice, actual knowledge, or a
180 reasonable opportunity to obtain knowledge of any injury within said ninety-day period is
181 alleged by such facility owner or operator, the burden of proving substantial prejudice shall be on
182 the owner or operator. An action to recover for such injury shall be brought within one year after
183 the date of such injury. Section 205J. Penalties Whoever violates any provision of section 205D,
184 205G, or any rule or regulation made under the provisions of section 205C, shall be punished by
185 a fine of not more than one thousand dollars; provided, however, that any person who operates
186 an amusement ride or amusement device, after the license therefore has been suspended or
187 revoked, shall be punished by a fine of one hundred dollars for each day of such operation.
188 Section 205K. Jurisdiction and control Amusement Rides and Amusement Devices shall not be
189 subject to the provisions of 780 Code of Massachusetts Regulations also known as the building
190 code, and shall not be subject to the jurisdiction or control of the Board of Building Regulations
191 and Standards.