



An Act Relative to Work and Family Mobility

H.3012 (Farley-Bouvier and Barber) and S.2061 (Crighton)

This bill would enable all qualified state residents to apply for a standard Massachusetts driver's license, regardless of immigrant status, while keeping out Commonwealth in full compliance with REAL ID requirements.

- **Tested and insured drivers make the roads safer for everyone.** We want all drivers to know the rules of the road, pass the same driver's test, and be properly registered and insured. It's in our state's interest to increase the number of insured drivers in order to boost our economy and make our roads safer
- **Driver's licenses increase public safety.** A 2017 Stanford University study found that California's law to expand licenses to unauthorized immigrants, AB60, led to improved traffic safety by reducing the number of hit and run accidents. Hit and run accidents can lead to serious injury because of a delay in medical reporting and can leave those involved in an accident without financial recourse.
- **Driving is essential to mobility in Massachusetts, especially outside Greater Boston.** Public transit options are far too limited to enable most residents to get to work, take their children to the doctor, or buy groceries. Notably, 78% of Massachusetts workers age 16 and older get to work by car, truck or van – 71% driving alone. Even in Suffolk County, 48% of people rely on personal vehicles, 41% driving alone.
- **More drivers can have a positive effect on our state's economy.** State revenue will increase as more residents pay for licenses and auto registrations. Fewer uninsured motorists and more drivers in the insurance pool could also lower everyone's insurance rates. In states like New Jersey that are also considering passing this law, it's estimated that insurance companies will bring in about \$233 million in additional premiums each year and the state of New Jersey would take in \$11.7 million in license fees.
- **In the Trump era, immigrant families risk being torn apart every time they drive.** In the first two years of the Trump administration, Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) arrests of people with no criminal convictions more than tripled. A major factor of this spike is a fivefold increase in arrests of immigrants who've been charged with an offense but not yet convicted. The most common charges are traffic offenses. By making driver's licenses available to all, regardless of immigration status, we can reduce the devastating impact of Trump's deportation agenda on Massachusetts families.
- **Immigrants who are currently barred from driving are a vital part of Massachusetts' social and economic fabric.** An estimated 185,000 undocumented immigrants lived in Massachusetts as of 2016 – roughly one-fifth of the immigrant



"As a former police officer with over 30 years experience, I believe all Massachusetts families would benefit from the Work and Family Mobility Act. This law would reduce the number of unlicensed and uninsured motorists on the road, which makes sense from a public safety perspective."

*-Representative Paul Tucker
Former Salem Chief of Police*

population. Many live in mixed-status families; about 1 in 20 U.S. citizen children in our Commonwealth live with at least one undocumented family member. In 2016, undocumented immigrants contributed \$8.8 billion to the Massachusetts economy, and they paid an estimated \$184.6 million in state and local taxes.

- **There is bipartisan support for driver’s license legislation across the U.S.** Fourteen states, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico already allow residents the right to apply for driver’s licenses regardless of immigration status, including our neighbors Vermont and Connecticut. New Jersey and New York are also considering legislation. Even Republican governors – in Utah, Nevada and New Mexico – have signed laws to confer driving privileges for all, regardless of immigration status.
- **This bill requires minimal changes to Massachusetts law, while keeping our Commonwealth in full compliance with Real ID requirements.** In March 2018, our Commonwealth instituted a two-tier system for driver’s licenses and identification cards; The REAL ID, and the Massachusetts standard license. Only the latter would be affected by this legislation, which means Massachusetts would remain in full compliance with federal REAL ID requirements.
- **The Registry of Motor Vehicles is well equipped to handle an expansion in driver’s license eligibility.** The RMV already deals with a wide range of driver’s license and identification card applicants, including non-citizens with varying immigration statuses and documentation and teenage drivers who aren’t at voting age yet.

PARTIAL LIST OF SUPPORTING ORGANIZATIONS

1199 SEIU	Health and Law Immigrant Solidarity Network	Pioneer Valley Project
ACLU	Immigrants’ Assistance Center, Inc.	Pioneer Valley Worker’s Center
ADL New England	Indivisible Mystic Valley	Progressive Democrats of Massachusetts
Agencia ALPHA	INDIVISIBLE: Nantucket	Progressive Massachusetts
Alliance for Business Leadership	Jewish Alliance for Law and Social Action	REACH Beyond Domestic Violence
American Friends Service Committee	Jewish Community Relations Council of Greater Boston	Rosie’s Place
Brazilian Women’s Group	Justice at Work	Salem Police Chief - Mary Butler
Brazilian Worker Center	Justice Center of Southeast MA	SEIU 32BJ
Brockton Interfaith Community	La Comunidad, Inc.	SEIU 509
Brockton Workers Alliance	Lawrence Evangelical Church	SEIU Community Action
Business Innovation Center	Lawrence Mayor - Dan Rivera	SEIU Massachusetts State Council
Catholic Charities	Lawyers for Civil Rights	Silverio Insurance
Cambridge Mayor - Marc McGovern	League of Women Voters - MA	Somerville Chief of Police - David Fallon
Cape Ann Local Action Network	Mass Interfaith Workers Justice	Somerville Mayor - Joseph A. Curtatone
Cape Cod Coalition for Safe Communities	Massa Viana Law	Student Immigrant Movement
Cape Verdean Association of Boston	Massachusetts Communities Action Network	The Irish International Immigrant Center
Castillo Law Offices	Massachusetts Teachers Association	The Welcome Project
Catholic Social Services of Fall River	Massachusetts Jobs with Justice	TPS Committee
Centro Presente	Merrimack Valley Project	Unitarian Universalist Mass Action
Chelsea Collaborative	MIRA Coalition	Unitarian-Universalist Society of Fairhaven
Coalition for Social Justice	National Association of Social Workers	Waltham Immigrant Solidarity Committee
Community Economic Development Center	Movimiento Cosecha	Western MA Jobs with Justice
Eastern Bank	Parenting Journey	Western Mass Area Labor Federation
Episcopal City Mission		
Essex County Community Organization		
Field First, LLC		
Gomez & Palumbo, LLC		
Open Door Immigration Services		
Greater Boston Interfaith Organization		
Green-Rainbow Party		

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