



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 immigration status, while keeping our 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 & 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.



"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*

- **Immigrants who are currently barred from driving are a vital part of Massachusetts' social and economic fabric.** An estimated 255,000 undocumented immigrants lived in Massachusetts as of 2016 – roughly one-fifth of the immigrant 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.** Twelve states and the District of Columbia 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

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| 1199 SEIU | Episcopal City Mission | Movimiento Cosecha |
| ACLU | Essex County Community Organization | National Association of Social Workers |
| Alliance for Business Leadership | Field First, LLC | Pioneer Valley Project |
| American Friends Service Committee | Jewish Alliance for Law and Social Action | Pioneer Valley Workers Center |
| Brazilian Women's Group | Jewish Community Relations Council of | Progressive Massachusetts |
| Brazilian Worker Center | Greater Boston | REACH Beyond Domestic Violence |
| Brockton Interfaith Community | Justice Center of Southeast MA | Salem Police Chief - Mary Butler |
| Brockton Workers Alliance | La Comunidad, Inc. | SEIU 32BJ |
| Cape Ann Local Action Network | Lawyers for Civil Rights | SEIU 509 |
| Cape Cod Coalition for Safe Communities | League of Women Voters - MA | SEIU Community Action |
| Cape Verdean Association of Boston | Mass Interfaith Workers Justice | SEIU Massachusetts State Council |
| Catholic Social Services of Fall River | Massachusetts Communities Action | Student Immigrant Movement |
| Centro Presente | Network | The Welcome Project |
| Chelsea Collaborative | Massachusetts Jobs with Justice | TPS Committee |
| Community Economic Development Center | Merrimack Valley Project | Waltham Immigrations Solidarity Committee |
| | MIRA Coalition | Western MA Jobs with Justice |
| | | Western Mass Area Labor Federation |

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