

Inter-Office Memorandum

To: Arthur Bernard, Chief of Staff, Senate President Robert Travaglini

From: Senator James E. Timilty, Bristol and Norfolk District

Re: Move-Over Act

Date: October 5, 2006

OVERVIEW:

I will be filing legislation for next session that came to me from a constituent who is a State Trooper; the Move-Over Act. The bill would direct motorists to safely move to the left of stationary emergency response vehicles therefore giving law enforcement officers and emergency response personnel more room to work without the constant threat of vehicles passing by them at a close distance. Other states have a similar law and in most cases it took a tragedy to have the legislation filed and adopted, I plan with help from the Senate to be on the front end of this public safety necessity.

RATIONALE:

Our law enforcement officers and rescue workers risk their lives everyday to ensure the safety in the Commonwealth. It is due time that the public does something to ensure the safety of these very people, that is why I am filing this legislation. In addition we have added a section that mandates that the secretary of public safety to conduct an extensive public information and driver education program to make motorists aware of the new law.

REQUEST:

I hope to have your support among our other Senate colleagues. The legislation is drafted and I would like to roll it out to the press the week of October 16th. I have and will continue to gather support from the Massachusetts Chiefs of Police, the State Police and the Massachusetts Firefighters Association. In addition my staff has been in touch with Families For Roadside Safety, Inc. which was started by the wife of a North Carolina State Trooper who lost his life during a traffic stop.

The legislation and a bill summary are attached. Our plan is to hold a press conference with supporters to roll out this legislation late in the week of October 16th, probably the 18th or 19th.

CC: David Friedman
David Morales
Timothy O'Neill
Ryan McCollum

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