



Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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LEWIS G. EVANGELIDIS
SHERIFF

February 13, 2012

Senator Thomas M. McGee
Committee on Transportation
Room 190C
State House
Boston, MA 02133

Representative William H. Straus
Committee on Transportation
Room 134
State House
Boston, MA 02133

Re: Support of Senate Bill S1798

Dear Chairmen,

I am writing in support of Senate Bill S1798, which calls for the addition of a single, easily identifiable, symbol to be added to Massachusetts license plates. This simple change has been proven to improve a witness' ability to remember and report a license plate number in the event of a crime.

This bill would assist law enforcement with child abduction cases, in addition to all criminal investigations, by more quickly eliminating non-suspect vehicles from their search. By including a symbol allows adults to more easily recall a license plate, but also makes reporting easier for a child, a person with dyslexia, or for a person viewing the plate through a rearview mirror.

Massachusetts tax-payers pay, each year, for false license plate readings due to the poor condition of some plates. In addition, funds are already being directed to update the Registry of Vehicles' computer system, making it possible for it to handle the additional symbol. The up-front transition cost of this change would be quickly turned into positive cash flow.

As Sheriff of Worcester County with my highest priority being public safety, I truly believe 'Molly's Bill' will improve the safety of Massachusetts' citizens. I thank you for your consideration of this important bill.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Lewis G. Evangelidis".

Lewis G. Evangelidis, Sheriff