



**SUPPORT HD4131 – An Act Relative to Animal Safety in Motor Vehicles aka
Mollie’s Law – Rep. Susan Williams Gifford (R)**

Referred to House Committee on Rules

WHAT THIS BILL DOES:

This bill specifies that an animal may not be transported in a motor vehicle unless it is kept in an enclosed area, a crate, under the control of a person other than the vehicle operator, or restrained by a harness or seat belt with violators being fined not less than \$50.

WHY YOU SHOULD SUPPORT THIS BILL:

A dog loose in your car can bump into or lean on the steering wheel, get under your feet while you’re driving, block your line of sight, shift the car into a different gear, and distract your attention from the road.

Having any moving object wandering around the car while it’s moving is dangerous. Unsecured pets are much more likely to be injured or killed if there is an accident and they are loose in the car and can put you at risk of an accident.

An American Automobile Association (AAA) survey found that:

- Only 16 percent of respondents who take their pets on trips practice proper pet car safety.
- Over 50 percent of respondents who travel with their pets in the car admitted that they have taken their hands off the wheel to pet their dog while driving.
- 17 percent of respondents admitted that they allow their pet to sit in their lap while they’re driving.
- 13 percent of respondents give their dogs treats while driving.
- 4 percent of respondents admitted that they actually play with their dog while they’re driving.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Massachusetts Federation of Dog Clubs and Responsible Dog Owners

Mrs. Julie Rembrandt Seeley; jrembrandtseeley@charter.net; 978-456-8644

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06/03/21

HOUSE No.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Susan Williams Gifford, (BY REQUEST)

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 animal safety in motor vehicles aka Mollie’s Law.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	DATE ADDED:
<i>Susan Grebber</i>		<i>3/26/2021</i>

HOUSE No.

By Ms. Gifford of Wareham (by request), a petition (subject to Joint Rule 12) of Susan Grebber relative to the transportation of certain animals. Transportation.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

**In the One Hundred and Ninety-Second General Court
(2021-2022)**

An Act relative to animal safety in motor vehicles aka Mollie’s Law.

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

1 SECTION 1. Section 22H of Chapter 90 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2018
2 Official Edition, is hereby amended by inserting at the end thereof the following:-

3 No person shall transport an animal inside a motor vehicle unless said animal being
4 transported:

- 5 (1) Is kept in an enclosed area, including but not limited to a crate;
- 6 (2) Is under the physical control of a person other than the operator of the motor
7 vehicle; or
- 8 (3) Is restrained by a harness or seat belt.

9 Violators of these provisions shall be punished by a fine of not less than \$50.