

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
STATE HOUSE, ROOM 473G, BOSTON 02133-1054

REP. ALICE K. WOLF

REPRESENTING THE PEOPLE
OF NORTH AND WEST CAMBRIDGE

STATE HOUSE TEL. (617) 722-2070

DISTRICT TEL. (617) 868-9653

E-Mail: Rep.AliceWolf@house.state.ma.us

Committees on:

Education, Arts and Humanities
Housing and Urban Development

LEGISLATIVE AIDE
MARJORIE C. DECKER

E-Mail: MarjorieDecker@state.ma.us

December 9, 1998

Honorable Members of the Cambridge City Council
c/o The City Clerk
City Hall
Cambridge MA 02139

Dear Mayor Duehay and Members of the City Council,

For your information, I am sending you pedestrian crosswalk legislation that I have filed. It tightens and clarifies the present laws, increases the maximum fine for violation of the law, and adds potential criminal charges when a pedestrian is injured during such a violation.

It is likely that, as this goes through the legislative process, it will be modified. I hope for your support of this measure and, of course, welcome your recommendations with regard to this legislation.

I am also filing a statewide, local option bill to allow communities to lower speed limits on local streets. Currently, changes in speed limit involving a local street must be approved by the state.

Finally, I believe that we are all aware that the present street culture is hardly supportive of the laws regarding pedestrian safety in crosswalks. These laws will not work unless they are enforced. Therefore, I would strongly recommend that the Council set up city-wide enforcement of pedestrian crosswalks.

Sincerely yours,

Alice Wolf
State Representative

OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK
CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS

1998 DEC 11 A 10:21



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

IN THE YEAR ONE THOUSAND NINE HUNDRED AND NINETY- *nine*

AN ACT

To enhance pedestrian safety at pedestrian crosswalks

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

SECTION 1.

For Chapter 89: Section 11.(Marked crosswalks; yielding right of way to pedestrians; penalty.), delete the text and substitute the following:

Section 11. When traffic control signals are not in place or not in operation, the driver of a vehicle shall yield the right of way, by stopping, for a pedestrian crossing the roadway at a crosswalk marked in accordance with standards established by the department of highways. The driver must stop if the pedestrian is on same half of the roadway on which the vehicle is traveling or if the pedestrian is approaching from the opposite half of the roadway to within ten feet of that half of the roadway on which said vehicle is traveling.

No driver of a vehicle shall pass any other vehicle which has stopped at a marked crosswalk to permit a pedestrian to cross. No driver shall enter a marked crosswalk while a pedestrian is crossing notwithstanding that a traffic control signal may indicate that vehicles may proceed.

Whoever violates any provision of this section shall be punished by a fine of not more than two hundred dollars for each provision that has been violated.

Whenever a motorist's violation of any provision of this section results in bodily harm to a pedestrian, the law enforcement authority responsible for the roadway shall investigate the circumstances surrounding the violation. If there are no mitigating circumstances, the authority shall file a complaint of operating to endanger or other suitable charge against the motorist.

OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK
CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS

1998 DEC 11 A 10: 22

*The Commonwealth of Massachusetts*

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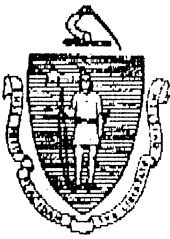
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Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Alice Wolf".

Alice Wolf
State Representative



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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NOTE. — Use ONE side of paper ONLY. DOUBLE SPACE. Insert additional leaves, if necessary.

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Comm. & Rpts. from other City
Officers #1

2245

A communication received from
Rep. Alice K. Wolf, relative
to legislation on the pedestrian
crosswalks.

In City Council December 14, 1998

Referred to

Traffic + Transportation meeting
of 12/15/98 on motion of C. Davis

Sent to C. Davis 12/15/98