

Massachusetts Headlight Law takes effect April 7th



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The State Police, along with the MassDOT Registry of Motor Vehicles and Highway Divisions, are advising motorists of a new law taking effect on April 7, 2015 requiring the use of headlights and taillights on motor vehicles during inclement weather and when windshield wipers are in use. The law is intended to increase safety and visibility of vehicles on the Commonwealth's roadway.

The changes to Mass General Law Chapter 85, Section 15, signed into law in January, require that front and rear motor vehicle lights be activated in all of the following conditions:

- When windshield wipers are on
- When low light or weather conditions prevent other vehicles or persons from being seen at 500 feet
- From $\frac{1}{2}$ hour after sunset to $\frac{1}{2}$ hour before sunrise

Relying on daytime running lights for these conditions is not sufficient under the law. A violation of this law is considered a surchargeable minor motor vehicle traffic law violation for insurance purposes, and is subject to a \$5 fine. For more information on the Safe Driver Insurance Plan and

insurance surcharge information, please visit the RMV's Merit Rating Board.
