

*Office of Representative James E. Vallee*  
State House, Room 238

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

December 16, 2008

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**VALLEE ANNOUNCES MOVE OVER LEGISLATION**

(BOSTON) Representative James E. Vallee (D-Franklin) is pleased to announce that the House of Representatives today approved the "Move Over" bill. The legislation will provide roadside safety professionals, state troopers and roadside assistance workers, with a safe area as they assist motorists on the roadside. The legislation will require drivers to clear and reduce their speed and move from the right lane to the center of the highway.

Representative Vallee, an original sponsor of the legislation, said the bill was presented to the members following a series of dangerous and near-tragic incidents occurred in which state police officers were struck while assisting motorists on the side of the roadway.

Representative Vallee sponsored the legislation when he was approached by Maria Conant of Franklin whose son is a Massachusetts State Police Officer. Mrs. Conant said, "For me it was a personal issue, he is my only son and has wanted to be a state police officer since he was a child. He enrolled in the Junior Trooper program when he was 15 and continued for 3 years. He served 4 years in the Marine Corps and has been a MA State Trooper for 3 years." Mrs. Conant concluded, "The police are out there protecting us so we should do the best we can to protect them."

Representative Vallee said, "The bill approved in the House today will make the roadways safer for our police officers and first responders as they assist motorists on our highways. We should make the highways as safe as possible for our police officers and first responders."

Under the legislation, drivers on highways with two lanes or more would be required to give wide clearance to roadside workers and to reduce their speed to a reasonable and safe level when lights are flashing on emergency vehicles parked along the roadside. If passed and signed by the Governor, Massachusetts would join 43 other states with similar safety laws.

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