



WalkBoston

April 23, 2007

The Joint Committee on Municipalities and Regional Government
Room 134
State House
Boston, MA 02133

Dear Committee Members:

WalkBoston, Massachusetts' leading pedestrian advocacy organization, writes to express our support for H1959, which increases fines for failure to clear sidewalks of snow and ice (in those communities that require removal) to \$100/day. Current fines are set not to exceed \$50 in cities, \$10 in towns.

WalkBoston believes strongly that Massachusetts should encourage the removal of ice and snow from sidewalks, and should support communities that require snow and ice removal. Clear, easily passable sidewalks are needed for pedestrian safety, particularly for children, elders and persons with disabilities. Uncleared sidewalks pose a hazard for all pedestrians, and often result in pedestrians walking in streets that are narrowed by piles of snow.

The current fines that are permitted under state law are set at level that may be lower than the cost of hiring teenagers (or others) to remove that snow, and this may be insufficient to encourage compliance with the laws of these communities. The state should support communities that have chosen to require removal of snow and ice from its sidewalks by allowing communities to charge a reasonable fine for leaving sidewalks un-cleared.

Thank you very much for your consideration of this important legislation.

Very Truly Yours,

Wendy Landman
Executive Director

MAKING OUR COMMUNITIES MORE WALKABLE

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