

By Mr. Roche of Springfield, petition of Richard P. Roche and other members of the House relative to the development of additional hydroelectric energy. Energy.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Seventy-Eight.

AN ACT RELATIVE TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF ADDITIONAL HYDROELECTRIC ENERGY.

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

1 The Legislature declares that, because of the impending
2 shortages of fossil fuels and the urgent need to develop
3 environmentally acceptable sources of electric power to meet the
4 future needs of this Commonwealth, the public interest requires
5 the rapid development of the hydroelectric potential of the
6 numerous existing dams on the Massachusetts waterways which
7 are not being used to generate electric power, if such development
8 can be shown to be technologically and environmentally feasible
9 and economically beneficial.

10 The Legislature hereby directs those state agencies concerned
11 with the development of water and power resources to establish
12 programs to encourage municipalities, electric cooperatives,
13 industrial development agencies, non-profit organizations and
14 public utilities to undertake the development of small hydroelec-
15 tric projects, and take such steps as may simplify and expedite
16 those state licensing procedures which pertain to such projects.

17 The Legislature acknowledges that one of the chief deterrents to
18 more rapid development and redevelopment of our existing small-
19 scale waterpower is initial cost. In order to assure a more favorable
20 cost-benefit ratio for those projects which have been determined to
21 be environmentally and economically sound and in order to
22 encourage investment in waterpower development, the Legislature
23 hereby provides that revenue produced from small-scale water-

24 power plants (those having a rated capacity of 10,000 kilowatts or
25 less) will not be subject to the income tax provisions of the
26 Commonwealth for the first five years of plant operation. This
27 exemption shall apply to all monies received from the sale of
28 electricity and any other uses of the power facility.

29 The Legislature further declares that since hydropower costs per
30 installed kilowatt of plant capacity now compare most favorably
31 with other modes of generation, and redevelopment of waterpower
32 facilities does not involve any adverse effects on the environment,
33 that all state agencies and departments which are concerned with
34 water and power resources accord highest priority to encouraging
35 development of small-scale hydropower.