

SENATE No. 122

To accompany the petition of Paul H. Benoit and George T. Smith for legislation relative to the establishment of prison reforestation camps. Public Welfare.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Fifty-Seven.

AN ACT RELATIVE TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF PRISON REFORESTATION CAMPS.

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

1 Chapter 127 of the General Laws is hereby amended by
2 striking out section 83A, as amended by chapter 667 of the
3 acts of 1956, and inserting in place thereof the following sec-
4 tion: —

5 *Section 83A.* The commissioner is hereby authorized to
6 establish, on land under the control of the department of
7 natural resources, camps to which male prisoners, except
8 those serving a sentence for murder, manslaughter, armed
9 robbery, assault and battery, breaking and entering, or sex
10 crimes, may be removed for employment, as designated
11 and approved by the commissioner of natural resources, in
12 reforestation, maintenance and development of state forests,
13 and in being instructed at least three hours daily in some use-
14 ful trade which will help them to make an honest living after
15 they have served their sentences. Only such prisoners may
16 be selected for removal to camps who have shown by their
17 conduct and disposition that they would be amenable to
18 less rigorous discipline and would benefit from work in the

19 open air. The selection of such prisoners shall be made by
20 the commissioner of correction and shall be approved by the
21 parole board. Before the commissioner of natural resources
22 shall approve a site for any such camp he shall hold a public
23 hearing in the nearest city, town or village situated within
24 a radius of fifteen miles of the proposed site. The commis-
25 sioner of natural resources shall give all facts and informa-
26 tion, and shall conscientiously weigh all objections proffered
27 at such hearing. No camp site shall be approved by the com-
28 missioner of natural resources in any forest having an area of
29 less than five thousand acres in one tract. No camp site shall
30 be approved within a radius of ten miles of any city, incor-
31 porated town or village. No prisoners shall be employed in
32 any kind of work within ten miles of a city, incorporated
33 town or village.