

HOUSE No. 436

By Mr. Prendergast of Boston, petition of William P. Prendergast for the abolition of the Boston Port Authority and the transfer of its duties to the dock commissioner of said city. Metropolitan Affairs.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Thirty-One.

An Act to abolish the Boston Port Authority and to transfer its Duties to the Dock Commissioner of Said City.

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

1 SECTION 1. Chapter two hundred and twenty-
2 nine of the acts of nineteen hundred and twenty-nine
3 is hereby amended by striking out section one and
4 inserting in place thereof the following:—

5 *Section 1.* The mayor of the city of Boston, sub-
6 ject to the provisions of its charter, may appoint a
7 dock commissioner, in this act called the commissioner.

1 SECTION 2. Section two of said chapter two
2 hundred and twenty-nine is hereby amended by
3 striking out the word "board," wherever it occurs,
4 and inserting in place thereof, in each instance, the
5 word:— commissioner, — so as to read as follows:—

6 *Section 2.* For the purposes of this act, the port of
7 Boston is hereby defined to be all of the tide water
8 lying westerly of a line drawn between Point Allerton
9 on the south and the southerly end of Point Shirley
10 on the north and all parcels of land adjacent thereto
11 and property thereon. The commissioner shall, from
12 time to time, investigate any and all matters relating
13 to the port of Boston, particularly with reference to
14 the unification of overseas terminals, belt line con-
15 nections, condition and location of piers and channels,
16 switching, floatage, lighterage, rates, rules, regula-
17 tions and practices, dockage, wharfage, water front
18 labor conditions, grain elevator and warehouse facili-
19 ties. With the assent and approval of the mayor,
20 the commissioner may initiate or participate in any
21 rate proceedings, or any hearings or investigations,
22 concerning the port of Boston, before any other body
23 or official. The board commissioner shall report
24 annually in December, or oftener if the board com-
25 missioner deems it necessary, to the governor, the
26 general court and the mayor.

1 SECTION 3. Section three of said chapter two
2 hundred and twenty-nine is hereby amended by
3 striking out the word "board," wherever it occurs,
4 and inserting in place thereof, in each instance, the
5 word: — commissioner, — so as to read as follows: —
6 *Section 3.* Said commissioner shall have an office in
7 the city of Boston and may employ such experts,
8 counsel and other assistants and incur such other
9 expense as it may deem necessary. All such expenses
10 shall be paid by the city of Boston upon requisition
11 by the commissioner to the extent that appropriations
12 therefor are available, but not exceeding in the aggre-

13 gate in any one year the sum of fifty thousand dollars;
14 provided, that said commissioner shall have the
15 same right to incur expense in anticipation of its
16 appropriation as if it were a regular department of
17 said city.

1 SECTION 4. Section four of said chapter two
2 hundred and twenty-nine is hereby amended by
3 striking out, in the first and third lines, the word
4 "board" and inserting in place thereof the word:—
5 commissioner, — so as to read as follows:— *Section 4.*
6 The commissioner shall have access to all maps,
7 charts, plans and documents relating to all matters
8 within its jurisdiction in the office or custody of any
9 public commissioner, commission or official of said
10 city.

