

HOUSE No. 404

By Mr. Dolan of Ipswich, petition of John F. Dolan relative to regulating the operation of motor boats upon rivers, ponds or inland lakes. Public Safety

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE REGULATION OF THE OPERATION OF MOTOR BOATS UPON RIVERS, PONDS OR INLAND LAKES.

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 15B, chapter 102 of the General Laws is hereby
2 substituted by inserting in place of section 15B the following
3 new section 15B; as follows:—

4 *Section 15B.* Cities and towns through which rivers flow
5 or in which inland ponds or lakes are located may, by ordi-
6 nance or by-law, provide individually or jointly for the regu-
7 lation and enforcement of rules and regulations for the opera-
8 tion of motor boats, including boats propelled by an “outboard
9 motor,” so called, upon said rivers, ponds or lakes within their
10 respective territorial limits, to the end that such motor boats
11 shall not be operated in a manner which endangers the safety
12 of the public or is detrimental or injurious to the neighborhood
13 or to the value of property therein. All such by-laws, rules,
14 regulations or ordinances shall be enforceable by the harbor
15 masters, assistant harbor masters, and police officers, either
16 individually or jointly, as the city council, in a city, or the
17 selectmen, in towns, may so direct. Any city or town adopting
18 by-laws, rules, regulations or ordinances may also require all
19 boats or outboard motors to be sufficiently and properly
20 registered, and may issue an identification tag or plate as may
21 hereafter be authorized. For all boats or outboard motors

22 registered by those engaged in a boat livery business, so called,
23 the city council or the selectmen, as the case may be, may
24 issue a special tag or plate in each instance at a reduced or
25 minimum rate. For each boat or outboard motor owned and
26 operated by a person whose chief occupation is commercial
27 fishing or a digger of shellfish, the city council or the select-
28 men, as the case may be, may issue a special tag or plate in
29 each instance at a reduced or minimum rate. Any city or
30 town may vote to require the payment of a registration fee not
31 to exceed three dollars per annum for each boat or outboard
32 motor registered. All such registration fees shall be paid into
33 the city or town treasurer in each city or town, and may be
34 expended for items of enforcing this act within such cities and
35 towns as the city council or the selectmen may direct and
36 approve. In the event of joint regulation and registration, all
37 fees and costs shall be divided respectively in relation to the
38 number of registrants from each city or town. Any by-laws,
39 rules, regulations or ordinances made under the authority of
40 this act shall be uniform in their application and jurisdiction
41 and shall be reciprocal from one registration community to
42 another within the commonwealth, and shall be subject to
43 the approval of the director of the division of waterways in the
44 department of public works of the commonwealth. Any city
45 or town may affix rules, regulations, by-laws or ordinances
46 from time to time to provide penalties for the violation of any
47 provisions of this act, but all such rules, regulations, by-laws
48 or ordinances shall be approved by the attorney general of the
49 commonwealth.