

HOUSE No. 897

Bill accompanying the petition of Thomas Curley relative to the management of the recreational activities of the people. Social Welfare. January 16.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Fourteen.

AN ACT

To provide for the Establishment of Boards of Recreation
by Cities and Towns.

*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. That cities and towns, except the city of
2 Boston, may establish boards of recreation composed of
3 five persons.

1 SECTION 2. The board of recreation shall consist of
2 a member of the park commission, or of the department
3 having control of the parks, and a member of the school
4 committee, and three citizens; the members in cities shall
5 be appointed by the mayor and in towns by the selectmen,
6 to serve one for one year, one for two years, and one for
7 three years; their successors to be appointed for three
8 years, or shall be selected by such other method as the
9 city or town may prescribe.

1 SECTION 3. The members of the board of recreation
2 shall serve without compensation; and from their own
3 number shall elect a chairman, secretary, and other neces-
4 sary officers, to serve for one year or until their successors
5 are elected. The board of recreation shall have power to
6 adopt rules of procedure and prescribe regulations for
7 the conduct of all business within its jurisdiction. A
8 majority of the membership of the board shall constitute
9 a quorum. Cities and towns shall appropriate, annually,
10 the funds that they deem necessary for the maintenance
11 and operation of said department, and from time to time
12 such additional funds as may be necessary to carry out
13 the purposes of this act.

1 SECTION 4. The board of recreation shall have power
2 to organize, manage and supervise the various play-
3 grounds, recreation centers, municipal gymnasiums,
4 municipal floating baths, bathing grounds, bath houses,
5 and other facilities for recreation of which it may be
6 given charge, as provided in sections five, six, seven, and
7 eight; and to plan, and recommend by regular reports to
8 the city or town government, and, after appropriate action
9 by ordinance, to create and develop an adequate and com-
10 plete system of playgrounds and recreation centers and
11 related activities, and to employ supervisors, instructors
12 and other necessary subordinates.

1 SECTION 5. Cities and towns may, upon the creation
2 of the board of recreation, from time to time thereafter
3 transfer to the charge of the board of recreation any
4 parks, parkways, grounds, playgrounds, buildings, or
5 other properties adaptable for recreation purposes, or
6 portions of such parks, parkways, grounds, buildings or
7 other properties.

1 SECTION 6. The board of recreation may, on its own
2 initiative, take charge of any grounds, with buildings
3 thereon erected, the use of which is offered to it tem-
4 porarily by individuals or corporations, for the purpose
5 of using such grounds for public playgrounds and recrea-
6 tion activities.

1 SECTION 7. The board of recreation may assume the
2 charge of school playgrounds during vacation periods, if
3 so requested by resolution of the school committee.

1 SECTION 8. By authorization of city councils, boards
2 of aldermen, or selectmen, the board of recreation may
3 have charge of provisions for winter sports on streets or
4 bodies of water, and for the observance of holidays may
5 disburse funds appropriated therefor and may have super-
6 vision of dance halls, moving picture shows and other
7 forms of commercial recreation and make recommenda-
8 tions to the licensing authority or authorities.

1 SECTION 9. This act shall not limit or affect in any
2 way the authorities heretofore conferred by law upon
3 any commission to lay out and improve any public park
4 in any city, now under the control of such commission;
5 nor shall it restrict, in any way, the full discretion of
6 any commission in the execution of any trust by deed
7 or will. Any such commission may delegate to the
8 board of recreation, and the board of recreation may ac-
9 cept legal charge of any grounds or buildings under the
10 control of such commission, to be used for playgrounds
11 and recreation purposes.

1 SECTION 10. The board of recreation shall annually
2 make a report of its proceedings during the preceding
3 year to the mayor or selectmen, with such recommenda-

4 tions of the development of playgrounds and recreation
5 facilities, including additions thereto, as it may deem
6 advisable.

1 SECTION 11. All acts and parts of acts inconsistent
2 herewith are hereby repealed.

1 SECTION 12. This act shall take effect upon its passage.