

HOUSE No. 1641

By Mr. Connell of Weymouth, petition of William A. Connell, Jr., that certain buildings of public authorities and public educational institutions be constructed so as to facilitate the use thereof by handicapped persons. State Administration.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

AN ACT PROVIDING THAT THE BOARD TO FACILITATE THE USE OF PUBLIC BUILDINGS BY THE PHYSICALLY HANDICAPPED MAY ADOPT RULES AND REGULATIONS APPLICABLE TO CERTAIN BUILDINGS OF PUBLIC AUTHORITIES AND PUBLIC EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS.

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. Section 13A of chapter 32 of the General
2 Laws is hereby amended by striking out the last paragraph and
3 inserting in place thereof the following paragraph: —

4 As used in this section, the term “public building” shall be
5 construed to mean buildings constructed by the commonwealth
6 or any political subdivision thereof with public funds and open
7 to public use, and shall include public housing authorities, the
8 Massachusetts Port Authority, the Massachusetts Parking
9 Authority, the Massachusetts Turnpike Authority, or building
10 authorities of any public educational institution, or their suc-
11 cessors, and the term “physically handicapped person” shall be
12 construed to mean any of the following: — a person confined
13 to a wheel chair, a person who, because of the use of braces or
14 crutches or because of the loss of a foot or leg or because of
15 an arthritic, spastic, pulmonary or cardiac condition, walks
16 with difficulty or insecurity, a person who, due to a brain,
17 spinal or peripheral nerve injury, suffers from a faulty coordi-
18 nation or palsy, a person who is blind or whose sight is so
19 impaired that, functioning in a public area, he is insecure or
20 exposed to danger, a person whose hearing is so impaired that
21 he is unable to hear warning signals, and a person whose

22 mobility, flexibility, coordination and perceptiveness are signifi-
23 cantly reduced by aging.

1 SECTION 2. No rule or regulation made by the board to
2 facilitate the use of public buildings by the physically handi-
3 capped shall apply to any structure or appurtenance thereto
4 constructed, reconstructed, remodelled, altered, improved, or
5 added to their property by or for public housing authorities,
6 the Massachusetts Port Authority, the Massachusetts Parking
7 Authority, the Massachusetts Turnpike Authority, or building
8 authorities of any public educational institution or their succes-
9 sors prior to the effective date of this act.