

SENATE No. 1253

By Mr. Backman, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 1253) of Jack H. Backman and John A. Businger for legislation to create the Charles River valley conservancy district. Urban Affairs.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

AN ACT TO CREATE THE CHARLES RIVER VALLEY CONSERVANCY DISTRICT.

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

1 *Resolved*, That whereas the citizens of the commonwealth of
2 Massachusetts under Article 95 of the amendments to the Mas-
3 sachusetts Constitution adopted by the people on November 7,
4 1972, were guaranteed the right to clean water and to the
5 natural, scenic, historic, and aesthetic qualities of their en-
6 vironment; and the conservation, development and utilization
7 of agricultural, forest, water, air, and other natural resources;
8 and

9 *Whereas* the Charles River for more than 350 years has been
10 a focus of activity and recreation of all kinds for Massachusetts
11 residents and has served as a major center of fish and game,
12 swimming, pleasure boating, and other outdoor and family ac-
13 tivities;

14 *Whereas* the Charles River is 80 miles in length and is the
15 longest river wholly within the Commonwealth, and its valley
16 encompasses all or parts of five cities and thirty towns in the
17 Commonwealth with approximately 1,110,000 residents com-
18 prising one-fifth of the 1970 population of Massachusetts; and

19 *Whereas* the Charles River has been degraded by municipal,
20 industrial, institutional, and public abuse to the detriment of
21 its full potential for recreational and for industrial and domes-
22 tic water supply; and

23 *Whereas* no present state or local governmental agency has
24 responsibility for the whole Charles River Valley, therefore

25 be it now

26 *Enacted* that the Charles River Valley Conservancy District
27 is hereby created and established in order to conserve, protect,
28 and improve water and land conditions throughout the Charles
29 River valley, said district to be administered by the Charles
30 River Valley Conservancy District Commission.

1 SECTION 1. The geographic limits of said district shall be
2 the physical boundaries of the Charles River watershed as de-
3 fined by the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers.

1 SECTION 2. The Commission shall consist of the Commis-
2 sioner of the Department of Environmental Management or
3 his designee, the Commissioner of the Metropolitan District
4 Commission or his designee, the Commissioner of the Depart-
5 ment of Fisheries, Wildlife and Recreational Vehicles or his
6 designee, a representative of the Metropolitan Area Planning
7 Council, and eleven citizens having demonstrated interest in
8 the river, to be appointed by the Governor, two of whom shall
9 be residents of the upper watershed, two of the middle water-
10 shed, and two of the lower watershed. The chairman of the
11 commission shall be selected by the commission from among
12 the citizen members.

1 SECTION 3. The initial purposes of the commission shall in-
2 clude: —

3 a. Investigation of land use, water supply, sewage disposal
4 and solid waste disposal, and other factors affecting the quality
5 of the river, its tributaries, and their watersheds;

6 b. Development of means of improving implementation of
7 existing statutes and programs in the district in cooperation
8 with established agencies;

9 c. Holding of public hearings;

10 d. Publication of a report or reports;

11 e. Formulation of further duties of said commission and
12 drafting of legislation necessary to carry the commission's rec-
13 ommendations into effect by filing the same with the clerk of
14 the Senate on or before the first Wednesday of December,
15 nineteen hundred and seventy-eight.

1 SECTION 4. The commission shall employ a director and such
2 other assistance as may be necessary. Said commission may
3 accept and expend gifts and grants of money from the federal
4 government or any other public or private source, and may
5 enter into agreements or contracts for acceptance of said
6 grants or gifts which provide for contributions of money from
7 appropriations made for the purposes of said district. Said
8 commission shall cooperate with other agencies of the Com-
9 monwealth or its political subdivisions and may enter into co-
10 operative agreement and contracts for the receipt and expend-
11 iture of federal and state grants and gifts and other monies,
12 for professional services, and supplies and office rental in the
13 conduct of the commission's activities. For said purposes there
14 shall be appropriated each year five cents per resident of the
15 Charles River valley for each of the state fiscal years nineteen
16 seventy-eight and nineteen seventy-nine to be **expended under**
17 the direction of the commission.

1 SECTION 5. The commission shall report to the General
2 Court from time to time the results of its investigations and
3 its recommendations.

