

wealth in the town of Natick, therefore it is hereby declared to be an emergency law necessary for the immediate preservation of the public convenience.

Be it enacted, etc., as follows:

Subject to the approval of the governor and council, the commissioner of natural resources, in the name of and on behalf of the commonwealth, may, notwithstanding any provision of general or special law to the contrary, and for such consideration as he may determine, sell and make conveyances of any land under the control of the department of natural resources in the vicinity of Lake Cochituate, in the town of Natick, which is north of the Worcester turnpike, so called, and west of the Saxonville branch of the Boston and Albany railroad, and which is more than sixty feet from the shore line of said lake as determined by the commissioner, and which, in the opinion of the commissioner and the board of natural resources, is not necessary to the purposes for which Lake Cochituate and its adjacent land are held by said department of natural resources.

Approved April 23, 1954.

AN ACT AUTHORIZING THE TOWN OF MAYNARD TO USE CERTAIN Chap.338
PARK LAND FOR SCHOOL PURPOSES.

Be it enacted, etc., as follows:

SECTION 1. The town of Maynard is hereby authorized to use such portion of, or the whole of, certain park land located in said town, being the land annexed to the original John A. Crowe Park, except a strip thirty feet wide and parallel with the easterly boundary of John A. Crowe Park, and a strip seventy-five feet wide and parallel with the southerly boundary of said park, as the town, by vote at an annual or special town meeting taken within three years after the passage of this act, shall determine, for the erection of a public school building or for other school uses, and for all purposes incidental thereto; and after such vote, such land shall be under the same care and control as other school property.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon its passage.

Approved April 26, 1954.

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A RIGHT OF Chap.339
WAY FOR PUBLIC ACCESS TO LAKE METACOMET IN THE TOWN
OF BELCHERTOWN.

Be it enacted, etc., as follows:

SECTION 1. The county commissioners of Hampshire county are hereby authorized and directed to lay out in the town of Belchertown a right of way for public access to Lake Metacomet in said town, in accordance with plans to be approved by the department of public works and showing the location and dimensions of such right of way. If it is

necessary to acquire land for the purpose of laying out such right of way, said county commissioners shall, at the time such right of way is laid out, take such land by eminent domain under chapter seventy-nine of the General Laws. Any person sustaining damages in his property by the laying out of such a right of way, or by specific repairs or improvements thereon, shall be entitled to recover the same under said chapter seventy-nine; provided, that the right to recover damages, if any, by reason of the laying out of such right of way, shall vest upon the recording of the order of taking by said county commissioners and that no entry or possession for the purpose of constructing a public way on land so taken shall be required for the purpose of validating such taking or for the payment of damages by reason thereof.

SECTION 2. The selectmen of the town of Belchertown from time to time may make specific repairs on or improve such right of way to such extent as they may deem necessary, but neither the county of Hampshire, nor any city or town therein, shall be required to keep such right of way in repair, nor shall they be liable for injury sustained by persons traveling thereon; provided, that sufficient notice to warn the public is posted where such way enters upon or unites with an existing public way.

SECTION 3. All expenses incurred by said county commissioners in connection with such right of way shall be borne by the county of Hampshire, or by such cities and towns therein and in such proportions as said county commissioners may determine.

SECTION 4. Said right of way shall not be discontinued or abandoned without authority therefor from the general court.

SECTION 5. Nothing in this act shall be construed to limit the powers of the department of public health, or of any local board of health, under any general or special law.

Approved April 26, 1954.

Chap.340 AN ACT RELATIVE TO THE POWERS AND DUTIES OF THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WELFARE.

Be it enacted, etc., as follows:

G. L. (Ter. Ed.), 118A, § 10, etc., amended.

Section 10 of chapter 118A of the General Laws, as most recently amended by section 10 of chapter 602 of the acts of 1952, is hereby further amended by inserting after the word "selectmen", in line 25, the words: — and boards of public welfare.

Approved April 26, 1954.

Chap.341 AN ACT RELATIVE TO THE EXEMPTION OF CERTAIN CHURCH DWELLINGS FROM TAXATION.

Be it enacted, etc., as follows:

G. L. (Ter. Ed.), 59, § 5, etc., amended.

Clause Eleventh of section 5 of chapter 59 of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after the word "held" in line 5, as appearing in chapter 317 of the acts of 1938, the