

HOUSE No. 210

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY
OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER
1010 COMMONWEALTH AVENUE
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02215, OCTOBER 30, 1986.

The Honorable Michael J. Connolly, *Secretary of the Commonwealth*,
State House, Boston, Massachusetts 02133

Dear Mr. Secretary:

Enclosed please find proposed legislation as filed by the Massachusetts Department of Public Safety for the 1987 Session of the Great and General Court.

Copies of these proposals have been filed with House Counsel.

Very truly yours,

FRANK J. TRABUCCO,
Commissioner of Public Safety.

*LEGISLATIVE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY*

1. AN ACT FURTHER REGULATING THE ISSUANCE OF CERTAIN LICENSES.

Purpose:

Currently the Department of Public Safety is converting to a computerized system of license renewals. For administrative purposes, we are anxious for uniformity and consistency in the way licenses and renewal licenses are handled.

This proposal would provide for an expiration date consistent with the licensee's date of birth. Conversion would be handled so that no licensee receives less time than he/she is entitled to. In fact, the proposal calls for extending the current license to the licensee's next date of birth.

The proposal will also standardize the grace period for renewing licenses at one year rather than the mixture of one, two, and three year grace periods now in effect.

Also, the proposal provides for a thirty-day notification to the license holder notifying him/her that a license is about to expire.

2. AN ACT FURTHER CLARIFYING THE SURRENDER OF FIREARMS BY NONLICENSED CARRIER OR OWNER.

Purpose:

The purpose of this proposed change in Section 129D of Chapter 140 is to allow the Commissioner of Public Safety to destroy those weapons coming into his custody.

The provisions of Section 129D allow the person whose license or firearms identification card has been revoked a one-year period to transfer any of his weapons to any licensed dealer or any other person permitted to purchase or take possession of such weapons. Obviously, within this one-year period weapons of any value have been disposed of by the owner in one of the aforementioned ways. What the Commissioner has been receiving can only be classified as junk — weapons that have no saleable value. Presently we are storing 18 weapons of this description. The total value of the weapons in our custody would not pay the cost of advertising and conducting a public auction.

We are requesting that the Commissioner be given the same author-

ity to sell or destroy as he has when a weapon is confiscated in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 269, Section 10 (e).

3. AN ACT ESTABLISHING A CRIMINAL PENALTY FOR THE POSSESSION OR USE OF A HOAX BOMB DEVICE.

Purpose:

The purpose of this legislative proposal is to provide for a penalty for those who make false reports regarding explosive or other dangerous devices.

It also establishes a penalty for those who own, puts or place, etc., a device purported to be a bomb, or explosive or other dangerous substance or contrivance.

Fire departments, police department bomb squads, and other associated law enforcement officials are continuously responding to reports of bombs, the reportings of which are false, or prove to be hoax devices. Criminal penalties of the type proposed might well reduce the number of such reportings. It would serve as a deterrent.

4. AN ACT FURTHER REGULATING THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE RECREATIONAL TRAMWAY BOARD.

Purpose:

Currently there are just under 50 aerial tramways in operation throughout the Commonwealth. To give proper credence to their important input in this industry and to glean from them information which provides for a better type of safety for the citizens who ride these devices, it is necessary and vital to have a representative of the aerial tramways as a member of the Board.

The wire rope industry is an essential part of the recreational tramway industry. Input and information from a representative of the wire rope industry would be very valuable to the Board.

5. AN ACT FURTHER REGULATING THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE BOARD OF BOILER RULES.

Purpose:

The requested expansion of the Board from its current four interests would provide a more diverse source of information and ideas

especially with the problems encountered by the recent world nuclear crisis at the Chernobyl plant in Russia.

Additionally, if the insurance company member represents a company headquartered in Massachusetts, rather than just having a representative office, it is felt that their interests would be more in tune with the needs of this state and they would be able and willing to provide technical assistance to our engineering section.

6. AN ACT RELATIVE TO BOXING OR SPARRING MATCHES OR EXHIBITIONS.

(A) ANALYSIS: The State Boxing Commission is seeking authorization to require boxers to submit to a drug test when the Commission has information or evidence of possible drug use.

COMMENTS: Prevalence of drug use among athletes. Article in Boston Herald, 10/8/86, indicates arrest of former WBA Heavyweight Champion for possession of cocaine and marijuana and drug trafficking. Other leading boxing states have a drug testing program.

(B) ANALYSIS: The State Boxing Commission is seeking to prohibit use of boxing gloves that do not have a smooth surface on the striking area from the wrist to the palm of the glove. These gloves are two-piece leather construction and ridges are apparent where the leather pieces are attached.

COMMENTS: The above described gloves are being sold throughout the country and have been purchased by promoters in Massachusetts. The concern is that these ridges can cause injury, and for safety they should be prohibited. See copy of memorandum dated 3/13/86 sent to Promoters, the New England Amateur Boxing Federation and others.

7. AN ACT FURTHER REGULATING THE LICENSING OF PIPEFITTING AND REFRIGERATION TECHNICIANS.

Purpose:

(1) All residential or commercial type boilers are rated in BTU's or "E.D.R." (Equivalent Direct Radiation). These are terms used in the heating industry and they refer to the amount of heating surface that would emit 240 BTU's/hr. when heated to 215° F. (1 lb. of steam) and surrounded by air at 70° F.

(2) The BTU is used in measuring the heating power of fuel, heat losses in buildings, pipes, boilers and the transfer of heat in power

plant application. Heat calculation involving a large number of BTU's (3,000,000) would relate to a large capacity of a steam generator system. Heat calculations involving 700,000 BTU's would relate to a 7 to 10 unit apartment building. Heat calculations involving a small amount of BTU's (100,000) would relate to a 7 or 8 room house.

(3) Reducing the license requirements from 3,000,000 BTU's to 700,000 BTU's would insure that qualified licensed people would install heating systems or heating equipment in buildings where public safety should and must be a factor.

(4) Members of the Bureau of Pipefitter and Refrigeration Technicians are in full agreement of this change in Section 81 of Chapter 146 of the General Laws.



