

*The Commonwealth of Massachusetts*

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To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives:

The General Court adopted the following in the form of Chapter 14, Resolves of 1974.

Resolved, That the department of natural resources is hereby authorized and directed to compile a list of all skating rinks and tennis courts which are open to the public or to which the public is invited in the commonwealth, their location and cost, and shall include the cost ratio between the cost of construction of private facilities. Said department shall also investigate and study the possibility and feasibility of the commonwealth renting or leasing such private facilities to serve the recreational needs of the community as an alternative to constructing public facilities therefor. Said department shall report to the general court the results of its investigation and study, and its recommendations, if any, together with drafts of legislation necessary to carry its recommendations into effect, by filing the same with the clerk of the House of Representatives on or before the first Wednesday in December, nineteen hundred and seventy-four.

In accordance with the foregoing resolve the Department of Natural Resources commenced a Rink, Pool, and Tennis Court Study in August of 1974. Although this resolve does not require that Pool programs be examined, the similarity between this program area and those mentioned in the legislation is manifest. Therefore, an analysis of Pool programs has been incorporated in the Study.

Due to the nature of the subjects being studied, the execution of the work program designed to accomplish the objectives of the resolve will require more time than originally conceived in the legislation. As a result, I am requesting that the due date for submission of the final report and recommendations to the legislature be extended to April 1, 1975.

Following is a report which outlines the Study work program including an indication of progress made to date.

Respectfully submitted,

Arthur W. Brownell, Commissioner

## RINK, POOL, AND TENNIS COURT STUDY STATUS REPORT

### STUDY MANDATE:

Chapter 14 of the Resolves of 1974.

### PURPOSE OF THE STUDY:

To analyze the present role and recommend the future role of the public and private sectors in providing swimming pools, skating rinks, and tennis courts for the residents of the Commonwealth.

### GENERAL METHODOLOGY:

Under the direction of the Department of Natural Resources Office of Planning, the Study is designed to involve representatives of both the public and private sector whose programs or business interests are related to the concerns of the Study. Two committees have been formed; a Study Committee comprised of state agency personnel, and an Advisory Committee comprised of persons representing other interests. The make-up of these two committees is as follows:

#### Study Committee:

Gilbert Bliss—Department of Natural Resources  
Richard Correia—Department of Natural Resources  
Paul Hogan—Department of Natural Resources  
Luke Thompson—Department of Natural Resources  
Jim Whalen—Metropolitan District Commission  
George O'Malley—Metropolitan District Commission  
John Calabro—Department of Education  
Kendall Smith—Department of Community Affairs (consulting member)

#### Advisory Committee:

Samuel Dyer—Dyer-Lundberg Associates (consulting firm)  
Chairman of Board, Framingham Municipal Rink  
Russell Garron—President, Mass. Ice Skating Association  
Manager, North Shore Skating Arena  
Vincent Haynes—United Community Planning Corporation  
(recreation services planner)  
John Koslowski—Sports Management, Inc. (indoor tennis court owner)  
Bruce Taylor—Boston YMCA (Associate General Director for Development)  
William Wester—Vice President, Worcester North Savings Bank Treasurer, Fitchburg Civic Center

Each individual on the Study Committee has been assigned research tasks which conform to the Study Work Program outlined below. While members of the Advisory Committee have not been assigned predetermined tasks, it is expected that they will provide specific information as requested.

#### FORMAT OF THE STUDY WORK PROGRAM:

The Study is divided into three phases:

- I. Reconnaissance
- II. Analysis
- III. Recommendations

Following is a detailing of each phase:

##### I. Reconnaissance

- Purpose: to make available background information which will be of use later in the study.
- Study elements:

##### 1. Inventory

*product:* An inventory of Municipal, State, Quasi-public and private organization rinks, pools and tennis courts—indoor and outdoor—which now exist or are under construction in each town of the Commonwealth.

(Reports filed 10/1/74)

##### 2. Legislative History

*product:* A description and analysis of the legislative background of the rink, pool, and court program of each public agency.

(Reports filed 11/13/74)

##### 3. Use

*product:* Information pertaining to the following subject areas:

1. Average facility capacity
2. Average daily use as a percentage of capacity
3. Total seasonal use (number of people served)
4. Average facility daily operating hours
5. Average facility yearly operating season
6. Fee structures
7. Use restrictions
8. Program orientation (what age groups are served, etc.)

(Reports filed 11/13/74)

## 4. Cost

*product:* Information pertaining to the following subject areas:

1. Capital construction costs (including long-term bond cost)
2. Average yearly operating costs—labor and materials
3. Average economic life of the facility
4. The cost of the total program as a % of the total agency budget.

(Reports filed 11/13/74)

## II. Analysis

— Purpose: to assess the efficacy of present state policy regarding the provision of rinks, pools, and tennis courts for the people of the Commonwealth.

— Study elements:

## 1. Present Policy

*product:* Information pertaining to the following subject areas:

1. What is the impetus behind the program?
2. What are the site selection criteria?
3. What is the funding process and the source(s) of funds?
4. What are the ultimate goals of the programs?

(Reports filed 11/13/74)

## 2. Policy Issues and Alternatives

*product:* This study element will involve examination of the numerous issues that are raised regarding the Commonwealth's rink, pool, and tennis court programs. This study element is intended to be wide open; armed with the information previously generated in the study, any, and all issues raised by the Study and Advisory Committees will be considered. A thorough examination of proposed alternative policies will be undertaken.

## III. Recommendations

— Purpose: to synthesize the policies and issues discussed in the previous phase, with the intent of preparing recommendations to be included in the report to the legislature.

— Study element:

1. Report preparation

*product:* a report to the legislature which details recommendations for policy changes at the departmental level, if any, plus recommendations for legislative action, if any.

**Progress To Date:**

All work elements up through Present Policy in Phase II (Analysis) have been addressed, with a report(s) on file for each element (as indicated above).

The Study Committee has continued to meet regularly, and the reports generated by members of this committee have been distributed to all members of both the Study and Advisory committees. The first joint meeting of the two committees will be held December 4, 1974. At this time the background reports will be reviewed, and the Policy Issues and Alternatives Study element will begin to be addressed. It is anticipated that Phase II of the Study will be completed by March 1st. A report and recommendations will be submitted to the legislature prior to April 1st.

*The Commonwealth of Massachusetts*

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

Appendix A

RESOLVE EXTENDING THE TIME WITHIN WHICH THE DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES SHALL COMPLETE THE COMPILED LIST OF ALL SKATING RINKS AND TENNIS COURTS WHICH ARE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC OR TO WHICH THE PUBLIC IS INVITED IN THE COMMONWEALTH, THEIR LOCATION AND COST AND SHALL INCLUDE THE COST RATIO BETWEEN THE COST OF CONSTRUCTION OF PRIVATE FACILITIES.

1        *Resolved*, That the time within which the Department of  
2 Natural Resources is required to compile the list extending the  
3 time within which the Department of Natural Resources shall  
4 complete the compiled list of all skating rinks and tennis courts  
5 which are open to the public or to which the public is invited in  
6 the Commonwealth, their location and cost and shall include the  
7 cost ratio between the cost of construction of private facilities is  
8 hereby extended to the first day of April, One Thousand Nine  
9 Hundred and Seventy-Five.

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