

By Mrs. Gray of Framingham, petition of Barbara E. Gray that cities and towns be authorized to designate scenic rivers, streams and ponds. Natural Resources and Agriculture.

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

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

**AN ACT AUTHORIZING CITIES AND TOWNS TO DESIGNATE SCENIC RIVERS, STREAMS AND PONDS.**

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

1 Chapter 40 of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting  
2 after Section 15C the following section:—

3 *Section 15D.* A bill enabling cities and towns of the Com-  
4 monwealth, or groups of cities and towns, to designate rivers,  
5 streams or ponds, or portions thereof, within the cities' and  
6 towns' boundaries, as scenic rivers, streams and ponds.

7 In this section, the term "local scenic and recreational rivers,  
8 streams and ponds" shall mean rivers, streams or ponds or  
9 portions thereof, and such contiguous lands not to exceed 100  
10 feet on either side of the natural banks of such river, streams and  
11 ponds as the appropriate local authority deems it necessary to  
12 protect by any such order.

13 Designation as a scenic river, stream or pond shall be made  
14 pursuant to recommendation or request of the planning board or  
15 conservation commission of the city or town, or by an authorized  
16 watershed association in the case of groups of cities and towns, to  
17 be enacted after approval by vote of the appropriate Town  
18 Meeting, Town Council or City Council.

19 Each city or town or groups of cities and towns' scenic and  
20 recreational rivers, streams and ponds plans and orders shall be  
21 recorded in the appropriate city or town hall, or halls, and in the  
22 County Registry of Deeds.

23 After designation as a scenic or recreational river, stream or  
24 pond, any dredging, filling, removing or otherwise altering, or  
25 polluting the scenic river, stream or pond will be prohibited or  
26 restricted, except when approved by the Conservation Commis-  
27 sion of the city or town or Conservation Commissions of the  
28 cities and towns.