

By Mr. Bosley of North Adams, petition of Daniel E. Bosley for legislation to authorize the certification of underwater and scuba divers and the organization of volunteer teams for such divers. Public Safety.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Ninety-Three.

AN ACT AUTHORIZING THE CERTIFICATION OF UNDERWATER AND SCUBA DIVERS AND THE ORGANIZATION OF VOLUNTEER TEAMS FOR SUCH DIVERS.

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 91 of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting
2 after section 10D the following three sections: —
3 Section 10E. Any person being an underwater diver or a scuba
4 diver, may apply to the director for a certificate indicating that
5 he is a qualified underwater or scuba diver. Said director may,
6 in accordance with such rules and regulations that he may
7 promulgate pursuant to chapter thirty A, issue a certificate to such
8 qualified person after payment of a fee to be determined annually
9 by the commissioner of administration under the provision of
10 section three B of chapter seven. Qualifications and standards for
11 such certification shall be established only after the director has
12 consulted with and obtained advice from an advisory group called
13 by the director consisting of a geographical and technical
14 representation of persons actively involved in underwater or scuba
15 diving, including individuals from the national association of
16 underwater instructors or the professional association of diver
17 instructors. Said director may call together such a group from time
18 to time as in the opinion of the director is deemed necessary to
19 maintain modern, scientific and up-to-date certification
20 standards, including emergency training under the provisions of
21 section two hundred one of chapter one hundred eleven. Said

22 group shall be unpaid but may be reimbursed for necessary and
23 reasonable expenses.

24 Section 10F. The director is hereby authorized to form and
25 develop volunteer recovery search and rescue teams of certified
26 underwater divers and scuba divers in various geographical
27 locations of the commonwealth to assist local and state law
28 enforcement officials whenever the need arises for such recovery,
29 rescue or search operations. Said director shall promulgate
30 guidelines for the establishment of such teams including standards
31 for basic diving certificates and advanced diving certificates from
32 recognized organizations of diving instructors and such rules and
33 regulations necessary to implement and maintain such regional
34 volunteer organizations.

35 Section 10G. Any motor vehicle customarily used and operated
36 by such a certified underwater or scuba diver may be operated
37 by him as an emergency vehicle under the provisions of section
38 seven B of chapter eighty-nine and may be equipped with amber
39 lights.