

HOUSE No. 77

Accompanying the third recommendation of the Executive Office of Environmental Affairs (House, No. 74). Federal Financial Assistance.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

RESOLUTIONS IN SUPPORT OF A WATERSHED PROTECTION APPROACH TO ENVIRONMENTAL DECISION-MAKING.

1 *Whereas*, Every community is located within one of twenty-
2 seven watersheds in the Commonwealth and that all communities
3 within a watershed share the water and natural resources within
4 that watershed;

5 *Whereas*, Impacts to natural resources in one part of a water-
6 shed affect the well-being of the entire watershed unit; and

7 *Whereas*, Environmental protection can be implemented most
8 effectively by comprehensively addressing environmental impacts
9 on a watershed-wide basis;

10 *Therefore, be it resolved that:*

1 SECTION 1. "Watershed" is the geographic area within which
2 surface water flows to a common point.

3 "Watershed protection approach" shall mean environmental
4 planning and decision-making using watersheds as functional sys-
5 tems to coordinate and integrate human activities in the preven-
6 tion of pollution and protection or restoration of environmental
7 quality.

1 SECTION 2. As the watershed protection approach provides a
2 mechanism to integrate, coordinate and streamline state resource
3 protection programs; to form partnerships among state agencies,
4 local watershed and other civic associations, municipalities, busi-
5 nesses, citizens, federal agencies and others; to foster a sense of
6 ownership and stewardship of natural resources among citizens,
7 state, regional and local entities; and to correlate and coordinate
8 multiple resource protection, agencies of the commonwealth and
9 municipalities are encouraged to use the watershed protection
10 approach in their environmental planning and decision-making.

1 SECTION 3. Nothing in this resolution shall be construed to
2 amend, repeal, or otherwise alter any law or regulation estab-
3 lishing the duties and obligations of any state, regional or munic-
4 ipal entity or agency to plan for growth, or to amend, repeal or
5 otherwise alter any health, safety or environmental standard.