

SENATE No. 944

By Mr. Saltonstall, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 944) of William L. Saltonstall for legislation to provide for the safe handling of guns. Public Safety.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

AN ACT TO PROVIDE FOR THE SAFE HANDLING OF GUNS.

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 140 of the General Laws is hereby amended by in-
- 2 serting after section 131H the following new section: —
- 3 *Section 132.* No person shall be deemed suitable to receive
- 4 a firearm identification card under section 129B of this chap-
- 5 ter or a license to carry firearms under section 131 of this
- 6 chapter unless he shall have demonstrated to the satisfaction
- 7 of the person issuing said identification card or license pro-
- 8 ficiency and knowledge of the safe handling and care of the
- 9 firearm, shotgun or rifle he intends to use. Said requirement
- 10 shall not apply to applicants for license renewal under said
- 11 section 131. The commissioner of public safety shall prepare
- 12 proposed regulations to implement said requirement and shall
- 13 hold a public hearing on the proposed regulations not later
- 14 than January 1, 1978. The commissioner shall issue permanent
- 15 regulations not later than March 31, 1978. Said regulations
- 16 shall take effect on May 31, 1978 unless the general court
- 17 disapproves said regulations prior to said date.

