

SENATE No. 1154

By Mr. Wetmore, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 1154) of Robert D. Wetmore, the Massachusetts Sportsmen's Council, by Thomas H. Berube, president, the Gun Owners' Action League, by Michael Yacino, and Stephen M. Brewer for legislation to further regulate the issuance of fishing, hunting and sporting licenses. Natural Resources and Agriculture.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Eighty-Nine.

AN ACT FURTHER REGULATING THE ISSUANCE OF FISHING, HUNTING AND SPORTING LICENSES.

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

1 Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 131, Section 14 is hereby
2 amended as follows: —

3 In the first paragraph, delete the third sentence and insert the
4 following new third sentence: — “The director or any city or town
5 clerk shall issue a hunting or sporting license to any minor fifteen
6 to seventeen years of age, inclusive, who presents to the person
7 authorized to issue such a license either: (a) a written statement
8 that at all times when hunting said minor shall be accompanied
9 by a person eighteen years of age or older; or (b) evidence that
10 said minor has held a license authorizing him to hunt in the state
11 in a prior year; or (c) a certificate of competency as provided in
12 this section or a certificate of competency from another state that
13 has been approved by the director.”

14 Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 131, Section 14 is further
15 amended by striking out the third paragraph and inserting the
16 following new paragraph: —

17 “Nothing in this section or any other provision of law shall
18 prohibit any minor from participating in target practice provided
19 said minor is licensed under Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter
20 140, and has received a certificate of competency in the safe
21 handling of firearms as provided in this section or a certificate

22 of competency from another state that has been approved by the
23 director, or that such target practice is conducted under the
24 supervision of a person eighteen years of age or older. Nothing
25 in this section or any other provision of law shall require a hunting
26 or sporting license for the purchase, possession or use, except use
27 while hunting, or any firearm, rifle, shotgun or ammunition
28 therefore, by any person who has been issued a firearms
29 identification card, or a license to carry firearms under Chapter
30 140 or is an exempt person as defined in Chapter 140.”

31 Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 131, Section 14, is further
32 amended by deleting the last paragraph and inserting in its place
33 the following paragraph: —

34 “Any firearm, whether discharged by air, mechanical action
35 or otherwise, used or possessed by any minor while hunting
36 without being licensed to do so under this section, or without being
37 accompanied as required in this section, shall be confiscated by
38 any officer empowered to enforce this section, and shall be
39 disposed of by the director of law enforcement for the best interest
40 of the Commonwealth, after a hearing, due notice of which has
41 been given.”