

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 773**

By Mr. Hynes of Marshfield, petition of Frank M. Hynes relative to authorizing the Department of Environmental Management to establish a regional dredge grants program. Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture.

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

In the Year Two Thousand and Seven.

AN ACT ESTABLISHING A REGIONAL DREDGE GRANTS PROGRAM.

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

1 Section 52 of Chapter 88 of the Acts of 1997 is hereby amended  
2 by striking out, in line 48, the word “and”; and by inserting, in line  
3 54, after the words “not to exceed \$25,000”, the following:— and  
4 provided further, that the department is hereby authorized to estab-  
5 lish a program within the office of waterways for the purpose of  
6 administering grants to one or more regional entities for the pur-  
7 chase of dredges and associated capital equipment. Regional entities  
8 shall mean any municipality, associations of municipalities, or other  
9 entity deemed fiscally and administratively qualified pursuant to  
10 regulations promulgated by the department. The regional entity or  
11 regional entities receiving a grant pursuant to this section shall be  
12 responsible for implementing a public harbor dredging program and  
13 shall be responsible for the operation and maintenance of the dredge  
14 program, the establishment and scheduling of services, the mainte-  
15 nance of books and records and for obtaining permits. The depart-  
16 ment shall provide to the committee on natural resources, the house  
17 committee on ways and means, and the senate committee on ways  
18 and means, no later than September 1 of each year in which grants  
19 are made, a written report as to the nature and scope of grants made  
20 in the preceding 12 months. The commissioner is authorized to make  
21 such rules and regulations as are necessary and appropriate to estab-  
22 lish and administer grants pursuant to this section. In no event, how-  
23 ever, shall the department be obligated to expend more than 2

24 million dollars for this purpose, which amount shall be available for  
25 expenditure by the department through June 30, 2006.