

HOUSE No. 816

By Representative Murphy of Weymouth and Senator Hedlund, joint petition of James M. Murphy and others that the Department of Environmental Protection be directed to make an investigation and study relative to the improvement and preservation of family campgrounds in the Commonwealth. Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PETITION OF:

James M. Murphy
Robert L. Hedlund

Elizabeth A. Poirier

In the Year Two Thousand and Seven.

AN ACT TO PROTECT AND PRESERVE FAMILY CAMPING IN MASSACHUSETTS.

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

- 1 *Whereas*, the land and waters within the Commonwealth have dis-
- 2 tinct natural, architectural, archeological, recreational, economic,
- 3 agricultural and other values;
- 4 *Whereas*, The obligation to protect the many valuable resources
- 5 of the Commonwealth is shared by local, regional, state and national
- 6 governments, civic organizations, businesses and the general public;
- 7 *Whereas*, such resources can only be protected by effective plan-
- 8 ning designed to bring about the coordination and cooperation
- 9 among the various levels of government, the private sector, and the
- 10 general public concerning land use decisions and planning for
- 11 responsible and sustainable development in a manner that protects
- 12 both the environment and the economic well-being of the Common-
- 13 wealth;
- 14 *Whereas*, The common good of the Commonwealth is served by
- 15 promoting responsible and sustainable development and protecting
- 16 open space;
- 17 *Whereas*; tourism is an integral component of the Common-
- 18 wealth's economy and family camping is a significant segment of

19 the tourism market bringing families from all over the country as
20 well as from many other nations;

21 *Whereas*; the family camping experience is endangered as a result
22 of significant economic and developmental pressures;

23 *It is hereby resolved*, That in order to protect and preserve the
24 great family camping vacation experience within the Common-
25 wealth the Department of Environmental Protection shall conduct a
26 study and report back to the Legislature by December 31, 2007 with
27 a comprehensive review and action plan which will be conducted
28 with input from the Massachusetts Association of Campground
29 Owners and the Department of Conservation and Recreation. Said
30 action plan shall present matters of vital interest that need to be
31 addressed as well as provide a legislative and regulatory framework
32 that may be required to be undertaken in order to effectively protect
33 and preserve family camping in the Commonwealth.