

# SENATE NO. 522

## **AN ACT** EXPANDING PLEASURE BOAT ACCESS TO BOSTON HARBOR

*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 1. Notwithstanding any General Law or Special Law to the contrary, all state and  
2 municipal public agencies and authorities owning or controlling property within the City of  
3 Boston, including but not limited to the City of Boston and the Massachusetts Port Authority,  
4 are hereby authorized and directed to identify and cause the establishment of mooring and  
5 docking facilities for pleasure boats within the City of Boston, with a particular emphasis on  
6 improving the availability to the general public of multiple useful locations for mooring or  
7 docking on a short term (hourly or daily) basis. Said agencies or authorities shall issue one or  
8 more public Requests for Proposals to solicit provision to the general public of the necessary or  
9 appropriate capital facilities and operations and maintenance services, with a particular  
10 emphasis on establishing new mooring or docking facilities available to the general public for  
11 short term usage as well as on a seasonal basis. According to their respective authorizing Acts  
12 or Charters, said public agencies or authorities may lease property, purchase property and/or  
13 enter into memoranda of agreement with private entities or other public agencies or authorities  
14 to improve public navigational access to Boston Harbor and the Harbor Islands for pleasure  
15 boating and to facilitate creation of boat landing, mooring or docking facilities available to the  
16 general public. Public agencies and authorities owning or controlling property within the City of  
17 Boston may charge or cause to be charged reasonable, market rate fees to defray the cost of

18 creation and maintenance of any mooring or docking facility made available to the general  
19 public. Nothing in this section shall be construed to limit the provision of boating facilities to  
20 the general public by private or non-profit service providers. The City of Boston may expend  
21 funds from any account created under section 5G of chapter 40 of the General Laws for  
22 fulfilling this section. All state and municipal public agencies and authorities owning or  
23 controlling property in the City of Boston jointly or separately shall file a report with the Joint  
24 Committee on Natural Resources and Agriculture, the Commission of the Department of  
25 Conservation and Recreation, and the Public Access Board on or before January 1 of each year  
26 reporting on the locations for public tie up, mooring or docking within the City of Boston,  
27 including but not limited to the Inner Harbor of the Port of Boston and including but not limited  
28 to non-seasonal, transient, short term public facilities.