

HOUSE No. 2085

By Mr. Armstrong of Plymouth, petition of Van Ness H. Bates and others for legislation to establish the southeastern Massachusetts development commission and defining its powers and duties. State Administration.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Sixty-Two.

AN ACT TO CREATE THE SOUTHEASTERN MASSACHUSETTS DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION, AND TO DEFINE ITS POWERS AND DUTIES.

1 *Whereas*, This act, involving matters of utmost consequence
2 to the economic and physical welfare of southeastern Massa-
3 chusetts, and to the tourist trade and related recreational and
4 economic welfare of the commonwealth, and being advisable to
5 activate as soon as possible because of the creation of the Cape
6 Cod National Seashore, is hereby declared to be an emergency
7 measure and shall take effect upon its passage.

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.* There is hereby created a special commission, in-
2 cluding members of the legislature, to be known as the South-
3 eastern Massachusetts Development Commission, hereinafter
4 termed the commission, to be comprised as follows: — A chair-
5 man and vice-chairman to be appointed, one from each major
6 political party, by the governor; two senators and four repre-
7 sentatives, equally from the two major political parties, by the
8 president of the senate and the speaker of the house, respec-
9 tively; and, ex-officio, the commissioners of the departments of
10 public works, natural resources and commerce; and the chair-
11 men of the county commissioners of Barnstable, Bristol, Dukes
12 and Plymouth counties or, in the case of the ex-officio members
13 their administrative deputies, designated for each meeting of the

14 commission at which the ex-officio member or members cannot
15 be present in person.

16 *Section 2.* The commission shall study and report, in general,
17 on the advisable current, intermediate and long-range develop-
18 ment of an integrated and comprehensive system of scenic and
19 other highways, bridgeways and related physical facilities and
20 economic factors in the four-county area herein designated, for
21 the welfare of this area and of the commonwealth, and to provide
22 attractive and useful facilities therein for residents, visitors and
23 tourists. The commission shall, in regard to the foregoing,
24 endeavor to foresee potential developments to the end of the
25 present century.

26 *Section 3.* The commission shall study and report specifically
27 upon the feasibility and economic desirability of twelve projects
28 proposed for consideration herein, and tentatively designated
29 and identified as follows: —

30 1. "Myles Standish Parkway" — from Hingham to Duxbury.

31 2. "Massasoit Parkway" — from Plymouth to the Assonet
32 peninsula area of Berkley.

33 3. "Plymouth Bayway" — from Plymouth Beach to Dux-
34 bury Beach.

35 4. "Pilgrims Crossing" — from Provincetown to Plymouth.

36 5. "Lower Cape Cod Parkway" — utilizing most of the dis-
37 continued Old Colony Railroad right of way.

38 6. "Pleasant Bay Parkway" — from South Chatham to
39 Orleans via Harding Beach and Chatham harbor, and possible
40 connector from South Chatham to state highway Route 6, and
41 from Orleans to Route 6.

42 7. "Cross-Cape Parkway" from Falmouth to West Barn-
43 stable, or to Dennis via a Barnstable harbor bridge.

44 8. "President Cleveland Crossing" — from the Great Neck
45 area of Wareham to the Monument beach area of Bourne.

46 9. State highway Route 28 extension — as a divided four-
47 lane limited or semi-limited access highway from West Fal-
48 mouth to Woods Hole at or near the Steamship Authority pier.

49 10. "Cameron Forbes Crossing and Parkway" — from Woods
50 Hole, Falmouth, to Cuttyhunk island, Gosnold.

51 11. "Bartholomew Gosnold Crossing" — from Nashawena
52 island, Gosnold, via Penikese island, Gosnold, to Slocum Neck,
53 Dartmouth.

54 12. "Vikings Viaduct" and "Lief Ericson Bridge" — from
55 Nonamesset island, Gosnold, to Norton Point, West Tisbury.

56 The Commission shall study and report on the validity, po-
57 tential economic effect, probable cost and priority of the fore-
58 going twelve projects and of any other projects the commission
59 may consider for the welfare of the four-county area and of the
60 commonwealth.

61 *Section 4.* The commission shall also study and report upon
62 the desirability and economic expediency of creating a system
63 of "regional" parks and seashores in this four-county area with
64 federal aid as provided in the national shorelines act, Public
65 Law _____ of the 87th Congress, or by such financial tech-
66 niques as are proposed by the President's Outdoor Recreation
67 Resources Review Commission report of January, 1962. Spe-
68 cifically, the commission shall study and report upon four
69 "regional" projects proposed for consideration herein, and
70 tentatively designated and identified as follows: —

71 1. "Pilgrim Regional Park" — hinterlands areas of Plym-
72 outh, Kingston, Carver and Wareham, including the Myles
73 Standish state forest; and South Plymouth beach, Duxbury
74 beach and marshes and the Gurnet and Clark island; and a
75 connecting park or parkway corridor near Eel river from South
76 Plymouth beach to the Plymouth hinterlands.

77 2. "Gosnold Regional Seashore" — the entire township of
78 Gosnold.

79 3. "Vikings Regional Seashore" — parts of Martha's Vine-
80 yard to include Gay Head township entire; the Nashaquitsa
81 and Squibnocket and No Mans Land island areas of Chilmark;
82 the entire south beach and areas inland between Chilmark
83 pond and Edgartown Great pond to and including the state
84 forest; and Chappaquiddick island, Edgartown.

85 4. "Massasoit Regional Park" — Taunton river areas north
86 of Fall River to include the Fall River-Freetown state forest
87 and parts of Freetown and of Berkley, including Dighton Rock
88 reservation.

89 The commission shall refer, in regard to the foregoing, to the
90 statement and exhibits under the title of "America's Rural
91 Renewal Regional Parks" dated March sixth, nineteen hundred
92 and sixty-one, and presented to the congressional house sub-
93 committee on national parks on that date and to the senate

94 subcommittee on public lands on March ninth, nineteen hun-
95 dred and sixty-one, when hearing on senate 857, the Cape Cod
96 National Seashore bill, and published in full in the senate
97 transcript of proceedings on senate 857.

98 *Section 5.* The commission shall also, apart from its studies
99 and reports on the four-county area, make a preliminary study
100 and report on the desirability and economic expediency of
101 creating a regional seashore to comprise most or all of the
102 islands of Boston bay; and the feasibility of a comprehensive
103 system of parkways and bridgeways to interconnect such
104 islands and to create a seaward by-pass of Boston proper from
105 the north to the south shores of Massachusetts bay.

106 *Section 6.* The commission shall be furnished with head-
107 quarters in the state house or any available state building in
108 the four-county area as the commission may choose. The
109 chairman and vice-chairman shall supervise the daily work of
110 the commission and receive two hundred dollars per week for
111 their services. Other commissioners shall serve without com-
112 pensation, but all commissioners shall be entitled to travel and
113 other legitimate expenses as approved by the chairman or vice-
114 chairman. The commission shall choose its own secretary and
115 treasurer and shall meet at least twice a month in plenary
116 session. The commission may employ or retain staff, legal or
117 consulting services as it may deem necessary.

118 *Section 7.* For the foregoing purposes the sum of one hun-
119 dred thousand dollars is hereby authorized to be taken from
120 unencumbered funds of the department of public works and
121 any unexpended funds so taken returned thereto. The com-
122 mission shall make at least a preliminary report, with drafts of
123 any legislation recommended, addressed to the governor and
124 the general court and filed with the clerk of the house of repre-
125 sentatives on or before December first, nineteen hundred and
126 sixty-two.

127 *Section 8.* The provisions of this act are separable and the
128 invalidity of any section or part thereof shall not affect the
129 remainder of the act.