

SENATE No. 959

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand Nine

An Act relative to rock wall climbing safeguards..

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. Section 205A of chapter 140 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2006
2 Official Edition, is hereby amended by inserting after the seventh paragraph the following
3 paragraph:-No license to operate a portable fabricated rock climbing wall, including an inflatable
4 wall, with a height in excess of 10 feet shall be granted nor shall such a rock climbing wall be
5 operated unless: all climbers are fitted with a safety harness and a belay safety system is used
6 with each climber and operated by persons trained in the proper use of such system. No license
7 to operate an inflatable rock climbing wall with a height in excess of 10 feet shall be granted nor
8 shall such an inflatable rock climbing wall be operated unless it is equipped with an inflatable
9 protective base and guardrail surrounding the base of the wall. No operator shall permit another
10 person to use any portable fabricated rock climbing wall, inflatable or not, with a height in
11 excess of 10 feet unless such person is wearing protective headgear. The commissioner shall
12 promulgate regulations consistent with this paragraph including, but not limited to: minimum
13 requirements for belay systems and whether such systems shall be automatic or not; minimum
14 training required for those operating belay systems; specifications for surface conditions or

15 preparation, including the installation of protective mats around the perimeter of a non-inflatable
16 climbing wall; specifications for the height and width required for an inflatable base and
17 guardrail for inflatable climbing walls; minimum requirements for anchor support systems for
18 climbing walls, inflatable and non-inflatable; and the use of protective headgear.

19 SECTION 2. The commissioner of public safety shall adopt regulations to carry out this
20 act not later than January 1, 2010.

21 SECTION 3. Section 1 shall take effect on January 1, 2010.