

**SENATE . . . . . No. 1217**

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**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

PRESENTED BY:

***Thomas M. McGee***

*To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in General Court assembled:*

The undersigned legislators and/or citizens respectfully petition for the adoption of the accompanying bill:

An Act relative to rock wall climbing safeguards..

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:
<i>Thomas M. McGee</i>	<i>Third Essex</i>
<i>Steven M. Walsh</i>	<i>11th Essex</i>
<i>Sal N. DiDomenico</i>	<i>Middlesex and Suffolk</i>
<i>Robert F. Fennell</i>	<i>10th Essex</i>
<i>Lori A. Ehrlich</i>	<i>8th Essex</i>

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By Mr. McGee, petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 1217) of Ehrlich, Fennell, DiDomenico and other members of the General Court for legislation relative to rock wall climbing safeguards [Joint Committee on Public Safety and Homeland Security].

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[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION  
SEE SENATE, NO. 959 OF 2009-2010.]

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

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**In the Year Two Thousand Eleven**  
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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, 2012.

21 SECTION 3. Section 1 shall take effect on January 1, 2012.