

SENATE No. 2801

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

—
In the One Hundred and Ninety-First General Court
(2019-2020)
—

SENATE, July 6, 2020.

The committee on Senate Ways and Means to whom was referred the House Bill authorizing the transfer of care and control of certain parcels of land in the town of Bridgewater from the Department of Correction to the Department of Fire Services (House, No. 4178) (also based on Senate, No. 2306); reports, recommending that the same ought to pass with an amendment striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting in place thereof the text of Senate document numbered 2801.

For the committee,
Michael J. Rodrigues

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the One Hundred and Ninety-First General Court
(2019-2020)

1 SECTION 1. Notwithstanding sections 32 to 37, inclusive, of chapter 7C of the General
2 Laws or any other general or special law to the contrary, the commissioner of capital asset
3 management and maintenance, in consultation with the commissioner of correction and the state
4 fire marshal, may transfer the care and control of certain parcels of land in the city known as the
5 town of Bridgewater from the department of correction to the department of fire services for
6 training, education and administrative purposes.

7 SECTION 2. The parcels of land to be transferred pursuant to section 1 contain
8 approximately 18 acres, more or less, as shown on maps on file with the division of capital asset
9 management and maintenance. The commissioner of capital asset management and maintenance,
10 in consultation with the state fire marshal, shall determine the exact boundaries of the parcels,
11 which may, after consultation, require the completion of a survey to be filed in the assessors’
12 office of the city known as the town of Bridgewater. Not less than 90 days prior to the transfer of
13 any such parcel, the commissioner shall file a detailed description of the parcel with the house
14 and senate committees on ways and means and shall include a certification that no such parcel
15 was acquired or restricted under Article 97 of the Amendments to the Constitution of the
16 Commonwealth.

17 SECTION 3. The department of fire services shall not be required to pay any
18 consideration for the parcels of land to be transferred to the department of fire services pursuant
19 to this act. Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, the department of fire
20 services shall be responsible for all costs and expenses incurred pursuant to this act as
21 determined by the commissioner of capital asset management and maintenance, in consultation
22 with the state fire marshal. Such costs shall include, but not be limited to, the costs of any
23 engineering, surveys, recording fees and deed preparation related to the conveyance of the
24 parcels pursuant to this act.

25 SECTION 4. Two open fields under the care and control of the department of correction
26 and currently used for agricultural purposes and outdoor recreation purposes shall be dedicated
27 to agricultural purposes and outdoor recreation purposes, respectively, and protected under
28 Article 97 of the Amendments to the Constitution of the Commonwealth. The 2 open fields are
29 located to the west of a parcel now or formerly owned by the New York, New Haven and
30 Hartford Railroad Company, to the south of Flagg Street, to the east of a parcel of land identified
31 as parcel 3 on the city known as the town of Bridgewater assessors' map 89 and to the north of
32 the department of correction firing range parcel. The field to the west shall be dedicated to
33 agricultural purposes under said Article 97 and the field to the east shall be dedicated for outdoor
34 recreation purposes under said Article 97. The commissioner of capital asset management and
35 maintenance, in consultation with the department of correction shall determine the exact
36 boundaries of the parcels, which may, after consultation, require the completion of a survey to be
37 filed in the assessors' office of the town.

38 SECTION 5. The commissioner of capital asset management and maintenance, in
39 consultation with the department of correction and with the approval of the city known as the

40 town of Bridgewater, shall transfer a 10-foot wide trail easement for nonmotorized passive
41 recreational use to the town, at no cost to the town, to be held by the conservation commission
42 under Article 97 of the Amendments to the Constitution of the Commonwealth. The trail
43 easement shall be located within 100 feet of the Taunton river and the commonwealth boundary
44 beginning on the north side of Summer street and the west side of the Taunton river, then
45 northerly to the commonwealth boundary and then northwesterly along this boundary to the
46 intersection of Summer street and a parcel of land identified as parcel 1 on the town's assessors'
47 map 90. The commissioner of capital asset management and maintenance, in consultation with
48 the department of correction and the town shall determine the exact boundaries of the parcels
49 which may, after such consultation, require the completion of a survey to be filed in the
50 assessors' office of the town.