

**SENATE . . . . . No. 511**

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**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

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PRESENTED BY:

***Patrick M. O'Connor***

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*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 establishing a regional dredge grants program.

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PETITION OF:

NAME:

*Patrick M. O'Connor*

DISTRICT/ADDRESS:

*Plymouth and Norfolk*

**SENATE . . . . . No. 511**

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By Mr. O'Connor, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 511) of Patrick M. O'Connor for legislation to establish a public harbor dredging program with the Division of Waterways, Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture.

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[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION  
SEE HOUSE, NO. 406 OF 2017-2018.]

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

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

An Act establishing a regional dredge grants program.

*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. Chapter 91 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2014 Official Edition,  
2 is hereby amended by adding the following section:—

3           Section 11B. The department is hereby authorized to establish a program within the  
4 office of waterways for the purpose of administering grants to one or more regional entities for  
5 the purchase of dredges and associated capital equipment. Regional entities shall mean any  
6 municipality, associations of municipalities, or other entity deemed fiscally and administratively  
7 qualified pursuant to regulations promulgated by the department. The regional entity or regional  
8 entities receiving a grant pursuant to this section shall be responsible for implementing a public  
9 harbor dredging program and shall be responsible for the operation and maintenance of the  
10 dredge program, the establishment and scheduling of services, the maintenance of books and

11 records and for obtaining permits. The department shall provide to the committee on natural  
12 resources, the house committee on ways and means, and the senate committee on ways and  
13 means, no later than September 1 of each year in which grants are made, a written report as to  
14 the nature and scope of grants made in the preceding 12 months. The commissioner is authorized  
15 to make such rules and regulations as are necessary and appropriate to establish and administer  
16 grants pursuant to this section. In no event, however, shall the department be obligated to expend  
17 more than 2 million dollars annually for this purpose, which amount shall be available for  
18 expenditure by the department.