

SENATE No. 594

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Patrick M. O'Connor

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.

PETITION OF:

NAME:

Patrick M. O'Connor

DISTRICT/ADDRESS:

Plymouth and Norfolk

SENATE No. 594

By Mr. O'Connor, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 594) of Patrick M. O'Connor for legislation to establish a public harbor dredging program with the Division of Waterways, Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture.

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION
SEE SENATE, NO. 511 OF 2019-2020.]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

**In the One Hundred and Ninety-Second General Court
(2021-2022)**

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 Chapter 91 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2014 Official Edition, is hereby
2 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.