

SENATE No. 347

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Benjamin B. Downing

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 protecting lakes and ponds from aquatic nuisances.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:
<i>Benjamin B. Downing</i>	<i>Berkshire, Hampshire, and Franklin</i>
<i>Michael R. Knapik</i>	
<i>William Smitty Pignatelli</i>	<i>4th Berkshire</i>
<i>Sean Garballey</i>	<i>23rd Middlesex</i>
<i>Paul W. Mark</i>	<i>2nd Berkshire</i>
<i>Gailanne M. Cariddi</i>	<i>1st Berkshire</i>

SENATE No. 347

By Mr. Downing, petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 347) of Benjamin B. Downing, Michael R. Knapik, William "Smitty" Pignatelli and other members of the General Court for legislation to protect lakes and ponds from aquatic nuisances [Joint Committee on Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture].

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION
SEE SENATE, NO. 2450 OF 2009-2010.]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand Eleven

An Act protecting lakes and ponds from aquatic nuisances.

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 21 of the General Laws is hereby amended by striking
2 out section 37B, as appearing in the 2008 Official Edition, and inserting in place thereof the
3 following section:--

4 Section 37B. (a) For the purposes of this section, the following terms shall
5 have the following meanings, unless the context clearly requires otherwise:--

6 "Aquatic nuisance", shall mean undesirable or excessive substances or
7 populations that interfere with the recreational or ecological potential of a body of water or
8 interfere with the natural resources thereof, and shall include, but not be limited to, rooted
9 aquatic vegetation and algae populations, dreissena mussels, spiny water fleas and any other

10 invasive species that the commissioner of the department of conservation and recreation declares
11 to be an aquatic nuisance.

12 "Boat transporter", any vehicle combination including a stinger-steered boat
13 transporter and a low-boy boat transporter, designed and used specifically for the transport of
14 assembled boats and boat hulls. The boats may be partially disassembled to facilitate
15 transportation.

16 "Inland waters", all waters within the jurisdiction of the commonwealth other
17 than coastal waters.

18 "Low-boy boat transporter", a semi-trailer unit in which the trailer is designed
19 and used specifically for the transport of assembled boats and hulls. The top surface of the deck
20 platform of such semi-trailer shall not be more than 36 inches above the surface on which the
21 wheels of the vehicle rest.

22 "Truck-trailer boat transporter", a boat transporter combination consisting of
23 a truck towing a trailer using typically a ball and socket connection and where the trailer axle is
24 located substantially at the trailer center of gravity, rather than at the rear of the trailer, but so as
25 to maintain a downward force on the trailer tongue.

26 "Vessel", watercraft of every description, except a seaplane on the water used
27 or capable of being used as a means of transportation on water.

28 (b) The department shall establish and maintain an aquatic nuisance control
29 program. The aquatic nuisance control program shall perform the following duties: (i) receive
30 and respond to aquatic nuisance complaints; (ii) work with municipalities, local interest

31 organizations, and agencies of the state to develop long-range programs regarding aquatic
32 nuisance controls; (iii) work with federal, state and local governments to obtain funding for
33 aquatic nuisance control programs; and (iv) administer the grant program under sections 37C and
34 37D.

35 (c) The department shall adopt regulations, in consultation with the
36 department of fish and game, to enable the aquatic nuisance control program to suppress,
37 eradicate, control and otherwise mitigate or reduce the risk of the spread of aquatic nuisances,
38 consistent with this section.

39 (d) The department shall study and promote improved methods of
40 suppressing, controlling or otherwise mitigating or reducing the risk of the spread of aquatic
41 nuisances and shall act in cooperation with federal and state agencies engaged in the study or
42 control of aquatic nuisances.

43 (e) The department may enter into contracts for the study, control and
44 eradication of aquatic nuisances on behalf of the commonwealth; act in cooperation with any
45 state agency, person, subdivision of the commonwealth, any other state, the United States or any
46 foreign government; issue orders or establish quarantines to suppress or eradicate aquatic
47 nuisances; and advise, make use of and require the use of all lawful means of suppressing,
48 controlling or otherwise mitigating or reducing the risk of the spread of such aquatic nuisances.

49 (f) Except as otherwise authorized by the department, no person shall
50 knowingly and intentionally place or cause to be placed in or upon inland waters an aquatic
51 nuisance.

52 (g) Except as otherwise authorized by the department, no person shall place
53 or cause to be placed in or upon inland waters a vessel, a boat transporter, a truck-trailer boat
54 transporter or any other equipment used in conjunction with such vessel, boat transporter or
55 truck-trailer boat transporter, if the vessel, transporter or other equipment has growing thereon or
56 attached thereto an aquatic nuisance, unless such aquatic nuisance has been cleaned,
57 decontaminated or treated to kill or remove the aquatic nuisance in accordance with the
58 department's regulations.

59 (h) Whoever: (i) knowingly and willfully violates subsection (g) or
60 knowingly and willfully resists or obstructs the department, including any duly authorized
61 employee or agent thereof, in the department's effort to suppress or eradicate an aquatic
62 nuisance; or (ii) having been provided a written copy of any rule, regulation, order or quarantine
63 issued by the commissioner of the department pursuant to this section, knowingly violates such
64 rule, regulation, order or quarantine, shall be subject, at the election of the commissioner of the
65 department, to either:

66 (1) a civil assessment of not more than \$10,000 for each
67 violation; provided, that each day that such violation occurs or continues shall be deemed a
68 separate violation; provided further that the penalty may be assessed by the department and may
69 be recovered in an action brought on behalf of the commonwealth by the office of the attorney
70 general in the superior court; and provided further that, the commonwealth may bring an action
71 for injunctive relief in the superior court relative to any such violation and the superior court
72 shall have jurisdiction to enjoin such violation and to grant such further relief as it deems
73 appropriate; or

74 (2) punishment by a fine of not less than \$100 nor more than
75 \$300 or imprisonment in the house of correction for not more than 30 days or both for a first
76 offense, a fine of not less than \$500 nor more than \$1,000 or imprisonment in the house of
77 correction for not more than 60 days or both for a second offense, and a fine of not less than
78 \$5,000 and imprisonment in the house of correction for not less than 30 days nor more than 90
79 days for a third or subsequent offense. Upon a conviction for violating this section, the director
80 of the division of law enforcement of the department of fisheries, wildlife and environmental law
81 enforcement may, in addition to the criminal penalties contained in this subsection, suspend or
82 revoke and cancel the certificate of number issued to such violator pursuant to clause (m) of
83 section 11 of chapter 90B of the General Laws and demand the surrender of any suspended,
84 revoked or cancelled certificate of number.

85 (i) Nothing in this section shall be construed to or have the effect of limiting
86 the authority of the division of fisheries and wildlife to manage and regulate inland fisheries
87 resources and other wildlife pursuant to chapter 131 or chapter 131A.

88 SECTION 2. Section 10G of chapter 21A of the General Laws, as so
89 appearing, is hereby amended by inserting after the words "environmental police officer", in line
90 2, the following words:- , the commissioner of conservation and recreation, acting pursuant to
91 section 37B of chapter 21.

92 SECTION 3. Section 10H of said chapter 21A, as so appearing, is hereby
93 amended by inserting after the third paragraph the following paragraph:--

94 A person notified to appear before the clerk of the district court as provided
95 in section 10G may, for a first offense violation of clause (2) of subsection (h) of section 37B of

96 chapter 21, so appear within the time specified and pay a fine of \$100 and, for a second offense
97 violation of said clause (2) of said subsection (h) said section 37B of said chapter 21, so appear
98 within the time specified and pay a fine of \$500.

99 SECTION 4. The commissioner of the department of conservation and
100 recreation shall adopt regulations as required by section 37B of chapter 21 of the General Laws
101 not later than 90 days after the effective date of this act.

102 SECTION 5. Subsection (h) of said section 37B of said chapter 21 shall take
103 effect upon the effective date of regulations promulgated by the department of conservation and
104 recreation pursuant to subsection (c) of said section 37B.