

## Chronological History

1/20/2009

House: Referred House Bill 797, "For legislation to provide for the issuance of salt water fishing licenses for use in the coastal waters of the Commonwealth", to the Joint Committee on Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture.

Senate: Concurred.

Public Hearing set for 7/9/2009, at 10 am, in Hearing Room B2.

7/9/2009

Joint Committee on Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture Public Hearing .

8/31/2009

House: Joint Committee on Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture reported House Bill 4224, "An Act instituting salt water fishing licenses", as a new draft of House Bill 797. House Bill 4224 read, and referred to the House Committee on Ways and Means.

11/4/2009

House: By Mr. Murphy of Burlington, for the committee on Ways and Means, that the Bill Instituting saltwater fishing licenses (House, No. 4224) ought to pass with an amendment by substitution of a bill with the same title (House, No. 4309). Referred, under Rule 7A, to the committee on Steering, Policy and Scheduling.

-Mr. Kafka of Stoughton, for said committee, then reported recommending that the matter be scheduled for consideration of the House, with the amendment pending.

-Under suspension of Rule 7A, on motion of Mr. Hill of Ipswich, the bill was read a second time forthwith.

-The amendment recommended by the committee on Ways and Means was adopted; and the substituted bill was ordered to a third reading.

-On motion of Mr. Straus of Mattapoisett, the bill (having been reported by the committee on Bills in the Third Reading to be correctly drawn), was read a third time, its title having been changed by said committee to read: "An Act providing for saltwater fishing licenses."

-Rep. Straus said, I rise in support of this bill. Under the federal law, which calls for a federal system of fisheries management on the coastal areas and the ocean areas throughout the U.S., there is a data requirement for marine fishery service. A couple years ago, Congress updated the law for the 20 million anglers out there. There is a substantial amount of fish caught by recreational anglers. So Congress has imposed on all the states a requirement that we have a data collection system to identify where anglers are fishing. A recreational license is required. We have the option of setting up a state system to retain fees that otherwise would be taken

by the federal government to assist in the research and habitat and promotion that benefits fisheries in our waters and federal waters. Let me make it clear, the requirement for having these programs and the setting of a salt water license, we have a deadline to put this in place by January 1 of next year. If we were not to act, the federal government would set up the program anyway and would charge our citizens a fee, except we would receive none of the benefits. If we don't do it, we are only hurting ourselves. We should keep the monies here and use them for our dedicated state program. We are also in this statute, setting up a fund subject to appropriation that mandates fees only be spent on the program, not in the general funds. You can tell people in your district that the money will go toward protection of the habitat associated with saltwater fishing.

-Rep. Straus asked that a vote on the issue be taken by a call of the yeas and nays, and there was support.

-Rep. Greene offered an amendment.

-Rep. Guyer raised a point of order, saying the amendment was beyond the scope of the bill.

-The chair said the amendment was well taken and it was laid aside.

-After remarks on the question on passing the bill to be engrossed, the sense of the House was taken by yeas and nays at the request of Mr. Straus; and on the roll call 156 members voted in the affirmative and 0 in the negative ( There is some dispute as to the number of yeas supporting the bill engrossing: roll call and bill history has the yeas at 156, State house news, House Journal, and House Session Video notes have the yeas at 151. The disparity is due to 5 after-votes.)

-The bill (House, No. 4309) was passed to be engrossed.

-Sent to the Senate for concurrence.

11/5/2009

Senate: Providing for saltwater fishing licenses (House, No. 4309,— on House, No. 797) was read and, under Senate Rule 27, referred to the committee on Ways and Means.

11/10/2009

Senate: By Mr. Panagiotakos, for the committee on Ways and Means, that the House Bill instituting saltwater fishing licenses (House, No. 4309),— ought to pass, with an amendment striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting in place thereof the text of Senate document numbered 2200; and by striking out the title and inserting in place thereof the following title: “An Act providing for saltwater fishing permits”.

-There being no objection, the rules were suspended, on motion of Mr. Tolman, and the bill was read a second time and was amended, as recommended by the committee on Ways and Means.

-The bill, as amended, was then ordered to a third reading, and read a third time.

-Sen. Tarr said, I rise in support of this measure. I want to thank the gentleman from Barre for his interest in this matter. In the 2006 reauthorization of a federal statute that governs fisheries management in these United States, Congress

required that there be a fishing license. The federal government is authorized and will impose a license in those states that don't have one. The federal government would impose a licensure requirement and a \$25 fee to comply with that requirement. That fee would not be for the benefit of Massachusetts but be retained by the federal government. It would propose a fee in the neighborhood of \$10. All of those funds would be retained by the commonwealth. If we don't act, the federal government will pass a higher rate. The stakeholders will be able to monitor and gain access to the fishery. The bill also carves out exemptions for folks over 65 years of age and folks who are under 16 years of age. We are running against the clock here, Madame President. Originally we were only allowed to do this through 2009. I would hope that we would act by January 1, 2010. I hope we pass this bill unanimously. I hope this amendment is adopted.

- After remarks, the bill was passed to be engrossed, in concurrence, with the amendment.
- Sent to the House for concurrence in the amendment.

11/17/2009

House: The House Bill providing for saltwater fishing licenses (House, No. 4309), came from the Senate passed to be engrossed, in concurrence, with an amendment striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting in place thereof the text contained in Senate document numbered 2200.

-Under suspension of Rule 35, on motion of Mr. Straus of Mattapoisett, the amendment (reported by committee on Bills in the Third Reading to be correctly drawn) was considered forthwith; and it was adopted, in concurrence.

- Bill providing for saltwater fishing licenses (see House, No. 4309, amended) (which originated in the House) having been certified by the Clerk to be rightly and truly prepared for final passage, was passed to be enacted; and was signed by the acting Speaker and sent to the Senate.

Senate: The Senate enacted H 4309 providing for saltwater fishing licenses.:

11/23/2009

Governor: Signed by Governor, as Chapter 161 of the Acts of 2009.