

§ A-1. JANUARY SESSION, 1939, CHAPTER 763.

AN ACT Providing for the Management and Control of Public Beaches and Commons in the Town of Little Compton. (H 839 Approved April 20, 1939.)

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

Section 1. The town of Little Compton is hereby authorized and empowered to manage, regulate and control all public beaches and commons situated in said town, the word "beaches" being used in this act to include the shores of said public beaches between high and low water markers.

Sec. 2. The care, management and control of said public beaches and commons shall be vested in a commission of not less than five nor more than seven members, as the duly qualified electors of the said town shall from time to time by their vote determine; provided, however, that the members of any such commission shall be duly qualified electors of said town; and provided, further, that the members of said commission shall first be selected at the annual financial town meeting in the year 1940. Until the members of said public commission have been elected and have duly qualified for office, the care, management and control of said beaches and commons and all other powers and authority herein granted to said commission shall be vested in the committee heretofore selected by the electors of the said town to take charge of all matters pertaining to the beach in said town known as the South shore, which committee is known in said town as the committee on the South shore.

Sec. 3. The said commission, or until its selection, the said committee on the South shore, is hereby authorized and empowered to make suitable provisions for the care, management, maintenance, protection and improvement of said beaches and commons, and for the proper policing of the same; to cause to be erected such bathhouses, fences and other buildings and structures as it may deem necessary or desirable for the convenience of the public and for the use and enjoyment of said beaches and commons by the public in a proper manner and under proper sanitary conditions.

Sec. 4. The town council of the said town is hereby authorized and empowered to enact such ordinances as it may deem necessary for the regulation of said public beaches and commons and in aid of the management, maintenance and improvement of the same, and for the regulation of any and all travel by the public to, from, on or over the highways, or other public ways, passing over or across said public

beaches and commons; and to prescribe penalties for the violation of such ordinances as may be enacted.

Sec. 5. The said commission, or the said committee on the South shore, as the case may be, is authorized and empowered, for the purpose of defraying the costs of maintenance and operation of the said public beaches or commons, to charge reasonable fees for admission to any of said beaches or commons, or any part or parts thereof, for the use of bathing-houses or other buildings and structures that may be located upon said beaches or commons, or upon any land owned by the town in the vicinity of the same, and for the privilege of parking motor vehicles upon said public beaches or commons, or upon any land owned by the town in the vicinity of the same, or upon any highway adjacent or leading to, over or across the same; provided, however, that said commission, or the said committee on the South shore, may exempt inhabitants of said town from the payment of any or all of said fees.

Sec. 6. Said commission, or said committee on the South shore, as the case may be, shall direct the expenditure of all moneys appropriated by said town for carrying out the aforesaid provisions; shall cause to be kept proper accounts of all income received and all expenditures made in accordance with this act; shall transfer and pay over to the town treasurer of the town of Little Compton all such income received; and shall certify all accounts payable, incurred hereunder, to said town treasurer for payment when approved.

Sec. 7. No rights of the inhabitants of said town, as such inhabitants, in or pertaining to any of said public beaches or commons shall be destroyed or substantially impaired by this act or by any action of said town council hereunder, though the exercise of any such rights may be regulated or reasonably restricted under this act so as to secure the most equitable enjoyment of such rights by said inhabitants and to protect such public beaches and commons from damage.

Sec. 8. This act shall take effect upon its passage.