



*An Act Providing for the Public Health by Managing Mosquitoes in the Commonwealth (S.B. 495)*

Sponsored by: Senator Robert S. Creedon, Jr.

1. *Who is Mass Audubon and why are you trying to change mosquito management?*

Mass Audubon works to protect the nature of Massachusetts for people and wildlife. Together with more than 100,000 members, we care for 32,000 acres of conservation land, provide educational programs for 200,000 children and adults annually, and advocate for sound environmental policies at local, state, and federal levels. Founded in 1896, Mass Audubon is the largest conservation organization in New England. Our statewide network of 43 wildlife sanctuaries welcomes visitors of all ages and serves as the base for our conservation, education, and advocacy work. We believe that current mosquito control is outdated and does not protect the health of the public or the environment.

2. *What does your bill do?*

It reforms the outdated mosquito control law by giving the Department of Public Health a seat at the table, increases coordination between state and local mosquito control, and requires better public education.

3. *Why is this change needed?*

Because mosquito control is first and foremost a Public Health issue and their voice needs to be heard from the start.

4. *What else does the bill do?*

It requires that regional mosquito control districts share information in a common format, coordinate their activities, and undertake their mosquito control projects using the most recent scientific information. We also think there needs to be better and earlier notification to the public when a mosquito outbreak is eminent.

5. *Isn't this just a grab by the environmentalists?*

No. The state's present mosquito control organization, the Reclamation Board, is already under the state's Environmental Affairs Office. This bill keeps mosquito control *intact* in Environmental Affairs *and* gives the Department of Public Health a seat at the table.

6. *Why did you file this bill, and what is your goal?*

To better protect the public health AND the environment. We believe that both can be achieved.

For more information, contact Jack Clarke, Director of Public Policy & Government Relations or Jennifer Ryan, Assistant Director for Legislative Affairs at 617-523-8448.

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