







## EXPLANATION OF VOTES 1991 - 1992

- # 361 A vote for passage of An Act To Provide Protection For Endangered And Threatened Species. This vote missed the deadline for our 1990 Report Card. Because this law to protect the habitat of rare species is so important to environmentalists, we have credited votes to those legislators who were serving at the time. For those who were members of the House during the vote, scores are calculated on a raw number that includes this roll call, others are rated on a base that does not include this vote. The bill was signed into law on December 27, 1990. "Yes" was the environmental vote.
- # 197 Administration of the Massachusetts Water Pollution Abatement Trust. The Trust was established by the Hayes Act of 1989. The Hayes Act addressed the disappearance of water project assistance from the federal government by offering grants and loans to municipalities in need of filtration and sewerage facilities to meet federal Clean Water and Safe Drinking Water Acts. After the enactment of the Hayes Act, the state pledged to finance 45%, 75% and even 90% of the costs faced by some towns. With state financing promised, some towns went ahead with construction. In November of 1991, the House voted on a proposal that would have limited state assistance to 25% of a proposed project. Towns with facilities already in the ground would have lost promised financial assistance. The scaled-back program was too limited to address the needs of other towns that might have considered converting from a dependence on septic systems. This drastic reduction was appropriately rejected by the legislature. "No" was the environmental vote.
- # 277 An order requesting the opinions of the Honorable Justices of the Supreme Judicial Court (SJC) on certain questions of law concerning the Watershed Protection Bill. This motion was offered late in the 1991 session by the Watershed Protection Bill's opponents. Presented days before the legislature was scheduled to wrap up its business, the proposed delay would have effectively killed the bill for the year. The motion was rejected, but other parliamentary maneuvers ultimately prevented the bill from beating the end-of-year legislative deadline. The bill was debated again in 1992 and was signed into law on May 20, 1992. The Watershed Protection Act establishes zoning setbacks and land use restrictions for areas adjacent to the tributaries, aquifers and reservoirs of the Quabbin, Wachusett, and Ware River watersheds. A "no" vote on the 1991 SJC referral was the environmental vote. The motion was defeated.
- # 13 An amendment to the Watershed Protection Act removing pollution-preventing restrictions on property served by sewer projects. This amendment incorrectly assumed that septic systems are the only form of development-related pollution. A "no" vote was the environmental vote. The amendment was defeated.
- # 14 An amendment allowing landowners within the areas covered by the Watershed Protection Bill to escape the development and land use controls until compensation is paid. This amendment would have prevented the Watershed Protection bill from being implemented. Appropriate compensation cannot be determined until the market's reaction to land use restrictions is measured. Furthermore, the amendment incorrectly assumed that any limit on land use justifies payment from the state, even though the landowner has other options for benefiting from the land's value. "No" was the environmental vote. The amendment failed.
- # 29 The vote on the Watershed Protection Bill. "Yes" was the environmental vote. The bill passed.
- # 78 A vote (H.5317) to strike sections 3 and 8, outside sections attached to a supplemental budget. Because these outside sections were tacked on to a budget bill, a major change to the state's hazardous waste siting law was accomplished without a public hearing. The outside sections removed much of the authority held by municipal boards in the siting of hazardous waste facilities. A "yes" vote to remove these sections was the environmental vote. The effort to strike Sections 3 and 8 failed.

\* elected November 1990

\*\* elected in 1991-1992