



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
House of Representatives
State House, Boston 02133-1054

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H. 1169, An Act Protecting Sunlight in Certain Public Parks

The bill seeks to expand the current laws that limit new shadows on the Boston Public Garden and the Boston Common. The bill would prohibit new buildings that do not comply with local zoning laws from casting new shadows on the parks listed below, except during the first hour after sunrise or before 7 a.m. (whichever is later) or during the last hour before sunset. H. 1169 would protect the following areas:

- The Esplanade
- The Commonwealth Avenue Mall
- Copley Square Park
- The Back Bay Fens
- Magazine Beach Park
- Christopher Columbus Park in Boston's North End

The purpose of this bill is to allow reasonably scaled development near the parks while ensuring that the grass, trees, and people who enjoy the parks have sufficient sunlight. The bill does not include height limits for buildings or add set back requirements. It simply strikes a better balance between the construction of new buildings and the protection of our parks.