

# FixCarver.com

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### Chapter 375 of The Acts of 2010 Signed into Law

Proving that one Man Can Make a Difference the Massachusetts Legislature passed and Governor Patrick signed into law on November 17th a new law exempting sheds less than 120 square feet in a mobile home parks in Carver from taxation.

The bill championed by Roderick Forrester started as a warrant article at the Spring 2010 Town meeting. Forrester, a resident of Cranberry Village mobile home park, disagreed with the decision of the Carver Assessors to begin taxing sheds in mobile home parks. Sheds in mobile home parks are not considered real estate but are taxed as personal property of the park. Park owners must divide the property equally among all owners equally whether or not the owner has a shed on his/her lot. This unusual situation means that an elderly person living alone who does not own a shed would be taxed the same as a neighbor who has a shed. This inequity did not sit well with Forrester and he set about educating himself about the process. It's fair to say local officials were less than helpful but Forrester set out with dogged determination to right this wrong. Town officials opposed the bill but Forrester consulted with an attorney at the Department of Revenue and introduced an amendment on Town Meeting floor to submit a home rule petition to the legislature. Home Rule Petitions allow a town to seek special legislation that impact only one town. Once passed town meeting Forrester expected clear sailing but the bill stalled in the legislature he contacted both Representative Gifford and Senator Pacheco for assistance and got the bill moving until it hit the Governors office. Patrick requested a technical amendment and the bill headed back to the legislature. After revision the bill passed and was signed into law on November 17th. Carver may not now tax sheds under 120 square feet in mobile home parks. Thanks to a citizen advocate who took matters into his own hands.

Rod Forrester means business when he says he's out to Fixcarver.

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