

To accompany the petition of Albert S. Previte, Jr., Patrick J. Walsh, Jr., and Joseph F. Gibney for legislation to provide for the transfer of the sum of twenty-five million dollars from the unencumbered balance of the highway improvement loans to be distributed to cities and towns for use in local highway work. Highways and Motor Vehicles.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Fifty-Five.

AN ACT AUTHORIZING A WORK AND WAGES PROGRAM.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1 *Whereas*, A critical problem exists in the cities of Law-
2 rence and Lowell and in other cities and towns of the
3 commonwealth due to the increasing numbers of un-
4 employed; and

5 *Whereas*, This unemployment is caused in no small
6 degree by the reduction of the number of persons em-
7 ployed in the textile industry, and

8 *Whereas*, The increase in unemployment in the com-
9 monwealth places an additional burden upon the local
10 governments which must care for the unemployed and
11 the needy, a burden which said cities and towns are no
12 longer able to carry without assistance; and

13 *Whereas*, In the interest of the public welfare it is es-
14 sential that each man be gainfully employed, and that
15 work and wages be offered to all our citizens who are
16 unable to obtain employment because of cut-backs in
17 industry or removal of business concerns from the com-
18 monwealth, to the end that unemployment cease and
19 that industry be stabilized, the following is enacted:—

20 In order to provide a program of public works thereby
21 providing work and wages for the citizens of the common-

22 wealth, the sum of twenty-five million dollars is trans-
23 ferred from the unencumbered balance of the amounts
24 under the Highway Improvement Loans, authorized by
25 the acts of nineteen hundred and forty-nine, nineteen
26 hundred and fifty, nineteen hundred and fifty-one and
27 nineteen hundred and fifty-two, providing for an accel-
28 erated highway program, and established as a special
29 fund, which shall be distributed to the several cities and
30 towns, in proportion to the amount of property enumer-
31 ated on the basis of the apportionment established by
32 chapter five hundred and fifty-nine of the acts of nine-
33 teen hundred and forty-five. The sum received by each
34 city and town shall be placed in a separate fund and
35 shall, under the direction of the local highway or engi-
36 neering department responsible for such work, be ex-
37 pended, without appropriation, together with federal
38 funds, if any, allocated to such city and town and avail-
39 able for such expenditure, in the current year or there-
40 after, as hereinafter provided for local highway work,
41 including construction, maintenance and repair of local
42 roads, streets and highways, other than state highways,
43 surface drainage, sidewalks, curbs and bridges, and snow
44 and ice removal. The local department, board or official
45 responsible for carrying out such work may employ such
46 clerks, engineers and other workers as he may deem
47 necessary, and the provisions of chapter thirty-one of
48 the General Laws shall not apply.