

HOUSE No. 878

By Mr. Pratt of Saugus (by request), petition of the State Executive Committee of the Socialist Party that cities and towns be authorized to incur indebtedness for the purpose of providing their inhabitants with the necessaries of life. Municipal Finance.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Thirty-Four.

An Act to amend the Law regulating the Power of Municipalities to provide the Necessaries of Life for their Inhabitants.

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

1 Section nineteen of chapter forty of the General
2 Laws which now reads "For the purpose of maintain-
3 ing, distributing, and providing at reasonable rates
4 during time of war, public exigencies, emergency, or
5 distress, a sufficient supply of food, other common
6 necessaries of life, and temporary shelter for their in-
7 habitants, towns may raise and appropriate money
8 outside of any limit imposed by law upon their tax
9 rate or debt; but any bond, note, or certificate of
10 indebtedness issued therefor shall be payable in not
11 more than two years from the date of its issue. The
12 receipts from any undertaking or service authorized by
13 this section shall not be applied to municipal purposes

14 other than those herein described so long as there are
15 any obligations outstanding issued on account of any
16 such undertaking or service. The expenditure of all
17 money so appropriated shall be under the direction
18 of the mayor or an officer appointed by the mayor
19 with the approval of the city council in cities other
20 than Boston, and in towns shall be under the direc-
21 tion of the selectmen or of an officer appointed by
22 them" shall be amended to read: — For the purpose
23 of maintaining, distributing, and providing at reason-
24 able rates during time of war, public exigency, emer-
25 gency, distress, or serious unemployment, a sufficient
26 supply of food, other necessities of life, and shelter
27 for their inhabitants, or for persons unemployed, cities
28 or towns may raise and appropriate money outside of
29 any limit imposed by law upon their tax rate or debt;
30 but any bond, note, or certificate of indebtedness
31 issued therefor shall be payable in not more than six
32 years from the date of its issue. The receipts from
33 any undertaking or service authorized by this section
34 shall not be applied to municipal purposes other than
35 those herein described so long as there are any obli-
36 gations outstanding issued on account of any such
37 undertaking or service. The expenditure of all money
38 so appropriated shall be under the direction of the
39 mayor or an officer appointed by the mayor with the
40 approval of the city council in cities, and in towns
41 shall be under the direction of the selectmen or of an
42 officer appointed by them.