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SECTION 2. This act shall be submitted for acceptance to the voters of the town of Oak Bluffs at a special town election to be held on May 13, 2003 in the form of the following question which shall be placed on the official ballot:-

"Shall an act passed by the general court in the year 2003 entitled 'An Act removing the town of Oak Bluffs from membership in the Martha's Vineyard Commission', be accepted?" If a majority of votes cast in answer to this question is in the affirmative, this act shall take effect on July 1, 2003, but not otherwise.

SECTION 3. Section 2 shall take effect upon its passage.

The foregoing was laid before the Governor on the Twenty-fourth of March, 2003 and after ten days had the force of law as prescribed by the Constitution as it was not returned by him to the branch in which it originated with his objections thereto within that time.

Chapter 11. AN ACT AUTHORIZING THE TOWN OF SUNDERLAND TO HOLD TOWN MEETINGS IN THE TOWN OF DEERFIELD.

Be it enacted, etc., as follows:

SECTION 1. Notwithstanding section 9 of chapter 39 of the General Laws or any other general or special law to the contrary, in the years 2003 and 2004, the town of Sunderland may hold its annual and special town meetings, and any adjournments thereof, at the Frontier regional high school in the town of Deerfield.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon its passage.

Approved April 10, 2003.

Chapter 12. AN ACT MAKING AN APPROPRIATION FOR FISCAL YEAR 2003 TO PROVIDE FOR SUPPLEMENTING A CERTAIN EXISTING APPROPRIATION AND FOR CERTAIN OTHER ACTIVITIES AND PROJECTS.

Be it enacted, etc., as follows:

SECTION 1. To provide for supplementing a certain item in the general appropriation act and other appropriation acts for fiscal year 2003, the sum set forth in section 2 is hereby appropriated from the General Fund unless specifically designated otherwise in this act or in those appropriation acts, for the several purposes and subject to the conditions specified in this act or in those appropriation acts and subject to laws regulating

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the disbursement of public funds for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2003. The sum appropriated in said section 2 shall be in addition to any amounts previously appropriated and made available for the purposes of that item.

SECTION 2.

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES.

Department of Transitional Assistance.

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SECTION 3. Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, the department of transitional assistance shall develop plans to prevent homelessness and to locate permanent housing in order to reduce the time of stay in shelters.

SECTION 4. This act shall take effect upon its passage.

Approved May 2, 2003.

Chapter 13. AN ACT RELATIVE TO THE ELECTION OF MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN IN THE TOWN OF CHARLTON.

Be it enacted, etc., as follows:

SECTION 1. Notwithstanding section 1 of chapter 41, sections 10 and 13 of chapter 43B of the General Laws or any other general or special law to the contrary, the composition, mode of election and terms of office of the board of selectmen in the town of Charlton shall be governed by the following: There shall be a board of selectmen, consisting of 5 members elected by the voters for 3 year terms, so arranged that the term of office of at least 1 member, but not more than 2 members, shall expire each year. As the terms of office of the incumbent members of the selectmen expire, candidates shall run for the office of selectman by the number assigned to a specific seat. No person may be a candidate for more than 1 numbered seat at any 1 election. The election ballots for each year in which more than 1 selectman is to be elected shall set forth each position to be filled as a separate position, designated position 1 and position 2 respectively. The candidate receiving the highest number of votes for each position shall be declared elected to such position. The selectmen who hold office as of the effective date of this act shall continue to serve until their terms of office expire.

SECTION 2. Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, the acts and proceedings taken by the town of Charlton in adopting a by-law by vote under article 24 of the warrant for the special town meeting held October 8, 2002 with respect to the mode of election and composition of its board of selectmen and at the annual town election held on May 3, 2003, and all actions taken pursuant thereto, and hereby ratified, validated and confirmed, notwithstanding any defect or omission in the warrant for, or any other procedural matters or lack of legal authority with respect to, such by-law and election.