

# HOUSE . . . . No. 3124

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## The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, August 22, 1955.

The Joint Committee on Ways and Means, to whom was referred the message from His Excellency the Governor relative to providing funds for necessary highway work and for the alleviation of financial burdens imposed by the floods caused by the rains of August 18 and 19, 1955 (Senate, No. 849), report (in part) the accompanying bill (House, No. 3124).

For the committee,

LEO J. COURNOYER.

## The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

AN ACT PROVIDING FUNDS FOR HIGHWAY WORK MADE NECESSARY BY THE FLOODS CAUSED BY THE RAINS OF AUGUST EIGHTEEN AND NINETEEN, NINETEEN HUNDRED AND FIFTY-FIVE.

1    *Whereas*, The deferred operation of this act would tend  
2 to defeat its purpose, which is to provide immediately  
3 for the relief of the disaster caused by the floods of  
4 August, nineteen hundred and fifty-five, therefore it is  
5 hereby declared to be an emergency law, necessary for  
6 the immediate preservation of the public health, safety  
7 and convenience.

*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 1. To provide for the purposes of disaster  
2 relief in the areas stricken by the floods caused by the  
3 rains of August eighteenth and nineteenth of the current  
4 year, as more clearly specified hereinafter, the sum of  
5 twenty-five million dollars is hereby made available for  
6 transfer by the commission on administration and fi-  
7 nance, at its discretion, for the following purposes: —

8    (1) To the director of civil defense such amounts as  
9 may be necessary to provide for expenditures or reim-  
10 bursements and other expenses authorized by section  
11 four of this act;

12    (2) To reimburse the appropriation accounts avail-  
13 able for the fiscal year nineteen hundred and fifty-six of  
14 the several other state departments, boards and com-  
15 missions such amounts as in the opinion of the commis-  
16 sion are necessary and have been expended therefrom  
17 for purposes of disaster relief or repair of flood damage,  
18 including the expense of the services of national guard  
19 units duly called for service in the stricken area.

1 SECTION 2. To meet the expenditures necessary in  
2 carrying out the provisions of this act, the state treas-  
3 urer shall, upon request of the governor and council,  
4 issue and sell at public or private sale bonds of the com-  
5 monwealth, registered or with interest coupons attached,  
6 as he may deem best, to an amount to be specified by  
7 the governor and council from time to time, but not ex-  
8 ceeding, in the aggregate, the sum of twenty-five million  
9 dollars. All bonds issued by the commonwealth, as afore-  
10 said, shall be designated on the face, Highway Flood  
11 Relief Loan, Act of 1955, and shall be on the serial pay-  
12 ment plan for such maximum term of years not exceed-  
13 ing twenty years from the date of issue as the governor  
14 may recommend to the general court pursuant to sec-  
15 tion 3 of Article LXII of the Amendments to the Con-  
16 stitution of the Commonwealth, the maturities thereof  
17 to be so arranged that the amounts payable in the several  
18 years of the period of amortization other than the final  
19 year shall be as nearly equal as in the opinion of the state  
20 treasurer it is practicable to make them. Said bonds  
21 shall bear interest payable semi-annually at such rate as  
22 the state treasurer with the approval of the governor  
23 shall fix. The initial maturities of such bonds shall be  
24 payable not later than one year from the date of issue  
25 thereof, and the entire issue not later than June thirtieth,  
26 nineteen hundred and eighty-one.

27 All interest payments and payments on account of  
28 principal on such obligations shall be paid from the  
29 Highway Fund; provided, that notwithstanding the  
30 foregoing, such obligations shall be general obligations  
31 of the commonwealth.

1 SECTION 3. The proceeds of the additional excise  
2 levied under the provisions of chapter six hundred and  
3 ninety-nine of the acts of nineteen hundred and fifty-  
4 one and the proceeds of the additional excise levied  
5 under the provisions of chapter five hundred and fifty-  
6 six of the acts of nineteen hundred and fifty-two shall  
7 be paid into the treasury and credited to the Highway

8 Fund, and, in addition to the purposes specified in said  
9 acts, shall be used in so far as available toward meeting  
10 the interest and serial payments on the bonds of the  
11 commonwealth issued under authority of section two of  
12 this act.

1 SECTION 4. The commonwealth shall, subject to the  
2 approval of a board consisting of the director of civil  
3 defense, the director of accounts of the department of  
4 corporations and taxation, the commissioner of adminis-  
5 tration, and the commissioner of public works, reimburse  
6 or allocate for the benefit of the political subdivisions of  
7 the commonwealth affected by said August floods, an  
8 amount equal to their obligations of repayment of any  
9 indebtedness incurred under the provisions of chapter  
10 six hundred and thirty-nine of the acts of nineteen hun-  
11 dred and fifty, as amended, or incurred under the pro-  
12 visions of section thirty-six A of chapter thirty-five or of  
13 clause (9) of section eight of chapter forty-four of the  
14 General Laws as a result of an emergency created by  
15 said floods, and shall reimburse them for any expendi-  
16 tures from available funds and from sums raised by  
17 taxation for the purposes authorized under said chapter  
18 six hundred and thirty-nine of the acts of nineteen hun-  
19 dred and fifty, as amended, or authorized under the pro-  
20 visions of section thirty-one of chapter forty-four of the  
21 General Laws as a result of highway repairs necessitated  
22 by said floods, and, in addition, the commonwealth may  
23 expend amounts approved by said board referred to  
24 above for purposes of disaster relief or repair of flood  
25 damage, for the benefit of the political subdivisions of  
26 the commonwealth affected by said August floods; pro-  
27 vided, that the total amount to be paid by the common-  
28 wealth for such purposes shall not exceed twenty-five  
29 million dollars.

1 SECTION 5. The reimbursement provisions of section  
2 four of this act shall be extended to cover reimbursements  
3 to the political subdivisions of the commonwealth an-

4 nually in an amount necessary to cover their obligations  
5 of repayment of principal and interest of any indebted-  
6 ness authorized by such political subdivisions prior to  
7 the effective date of this act without approval of the  
8 emergency finance board; provided, such approval is  
9 obtained prior to such reimbursement.

4. Finally in an ancient manuscript, I found the following  
 5. of expression of the first and second of the two  
 6. new systems of notation which I have just  
 7. the first of which is the one which I have just  
 8. compared with the one which I have just  
 9. compared; the two systems are



