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To accompany the petition of Fred Lamson and the Massachusetts Mayors Association, by Harold T. Pilsbury, for legislation to authorize cities and towns to borrow on account of public welfare and veterans' benefits. Municipal Finance.

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**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

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

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AN ACT AUTHORIZING CITIES AND TOWNS TO BORROW ON ACCOUNT  
OF PUBLIC WELFARE AND VETERANS' BENEFITS.

1 *Whereas*, The deferred operation of this act would tend to  
2 defeat its purpose, which in part is to make immediately  
3 operative, in view of the existing financial emergency in cer-  
4 tain cities and towns, the provisions of this act authorizing  
5 cities and towns to borrow certain sums during the current  
6 year and the next succeeding year on account of expenses for  
7 public welfare and for aid to veterans, therefore this act is  
8 hereby declared to be an emergency law, necessary for the  
9 immediate preservation of the public 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. Subject to the provisions of this act, any city  
2 or town, by a two-thirds vote as defined in section one of  
3 chapter forty-four of the General Laws, and with the approval  
4 of the mayor or selectmen and of the emergency finance board  
5 established under section one of chapter forty-nine of the acts  
6 of nineteen hundred and thirty-three, may borrow in each of  
7 the years nineteen hundred and fifty-seven and nineteen  
8 hundred and fifty-eight, inside its limit of indebtedness as  
9 prescribed by section ten of said chapter forty-four, for use

10 only for meeting appropriations made or to be made for public  
11 welfare, including in such term old age assistance, aid to  
12 dependent children, and disability assistance, and for veterans'  
13 benefits to an amount not more than one half of one per cent  
14 of the average of the assessors' valuation of its taxable prop-  
15 erty for the three preceding years, such valuation to be re-  
16 duced and otherwise determined as provided in said section  
17 ten of said chapter forty-four, and may issue bonds or notes  
18 therefor, which shall bear on their face the words: (name of  
19 city or town) Municipal Relief Loan, Act of 1957. Each  
20 authorized issue shall constitute a separate loan, and such  
21 loans shall be paid in not more than five years from their  
22 dates, as said board shall fix, and, except as herein provided,  
23 shall be subject to said chapter forty-four, exclusive of the  
24 limitation contained in the first paragraph of section seven  
25 thereof.

26 Loans may be issued hereunder in the year nineteen hun-  
27 dred and fifty-seven or nineteen hundred and fifty-eight, as  
28 the case may be, only by a city or town which in such year  
29 has appropriated to be raised by taxation, or appropriated  
30 from available funds for the purposes enumerated in the  
31 preceding paragraph, an amount not less than ninety per  
32 cent of the aggregate of its expenditures made in the year  
33 preceding the year of issue for old age assistance and aid to  
34 dependent children to be met otherwise than from the pro-  
35 ceeds of federal grants, and of its expenditures made in said  
36 preceding year for veterans' benefits, together with an amount  
37 equal to not less than seventy-five per cent of its expenditures  
38 made in said preceding year for all public welfare purposes  
39 including disability assistance to be met otherwise than from  
40 the proceeds of federal grants, other than old age assistance,  
41 aid to dependent children and veterans' benefits, all as deter-  
42 mined by the board.

43 If a loan under authority of this act has been approved by  
44 said board during the year nineteen hundred and fifty-seven  
45 or nineteen hundred and fifty-eight for a city or town, the  
46 amount of any appropriation voted by such city or town for  
47 said year for public welfare, including in such term old age  
48 assistance, aid to dependent children, disability assistance,

49 and veterans' benefits, shall not be reduced during the said  
50 year by appropriation, transfer or otherwise, except with the  
51 written approval of the board. Whenever used in this act,  
52 the words "veterans' benefits" shall include the forms of  
53 aid to veterans now or formerly known as state aid, military  
54 aid, soldiers' relief, and soldiers' burials, or any words or  
55 phrases connoting the same.

1 SECTION 2. The members of the board aforesaid, when  
2 acting under this act, shall receive from the commonwealth  
3 compensation to the same extent as provided for services  
4 under chapter three hundred and sixty-six of the acts of nine-  
5 teen hundred and thirty-three, as amended, including chapter  
6 seventy-four of the acts of nineteen hundred and forty-five.

1 SECTION 3. A loan order in any city under authority of  
2 this act shall be deemed to be an emergency order and as  
3 such may be passed in such manner as is provided for emer-  
4 gency orders or ordinances in its charter, and shall be in full  
5 force and effect immediately upon final favorable action  
6 thereon by its city council or chief executive, as the case may  
7 be, or upon expiration of any period specified by such charter  
8 for the approval or disapproval of such orders by its chief  
9 executive in any case where he fails to approve or disapprove  
10 such an order within such period, notwithstanding any pro-  
11 vision of general or special law or ordinance to the contrary;  
12 provided, that in the city of Boston such loan orders may be  
13 passed in the manner provided in its charter for loan orders  
14 for temporary loans in anticipation of taxes.

1 SECTION 4. In any city a loan order under authority of this  
2 act may be passed by vote of two thirds of all the members  
3 of the city council, or of each branch thereof where there are  
4 two branches, notwithstanding any provision of law to the  
5 contrary.

