

SENATE No. 35

To accompany the petition of Charles G. Miles that the expenditure of public funds be authorized for construction projects as a means of providing employment primarily for persons not eligible for federal or other forms of relief. Joint Ways and Means.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

An Act authorizing the Expenditure of Public Funds for Construction Projects as a Means of providing Employment Primarily for Persons not Eligible for Federal or Other Forms of Relief.

1 *Whereas*, The deferred operation of this act would
2 defeat its primary purpose, which is to provide at
3 once a measure of relief in the present unemployment
4 emergency by granting state aid in carrying out cer-
5 tain projects for work relief, therefore it is hereby
6 declared to be an emergency law, necessary for the
7 immediate preservation of the public health, safety
8 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 employment of
2 additional labor and other personal services as a
3 measure of relief during the present emergency caused
4 by unemployment, there may be expended from the

5 general fund or revenue of the commonwealth, sub-
6 ject to the provisions of law regulating the disburse-
7 ment of public funds and the approval thereof, the
8 sum of _____ dollars, to be disbursed in carrying
9 out projects as herein provided.

1 SECTION 2. Employment under this act shall be
2 governed by the following principles:

3 A. Hand labor shall be used where possible. Not
4 over ten per cent of the allotment to any project shall
5 be used for materials and machinery.

6 B. Existing state departments and boards shall
7 carry out all work under this act, in accordance with
8 existing applicable laws; but any such department or
9 board may, on its own initiative, establish projects
10 under such laws which will comply with the purposes
11 of this act.

12 C. The allotment of men to cities and towns for
13 work under this act shall be determined by the state
14 department of public welfare, based on population,
15 need and nearness to available projects. In cities the
16 men shall be selected by the mayor, and in towns by
17 the selectmen. No one shall receive welfare aid of
18 any kind while employed under this act. The men
19 employed shall be given at least one month's work
20 before changing gangs.

21 D. The departments and boards in charge of the
22 various projects shall select their own overhead, in-
23 cluding engineers, clerks, superintendents and fore-
24 men, based upon ability to handle the particular work
25 for which chosen.

26 E. The persons employed hereunder shall not be
27 subject to civil service laws or the rules and regula-
28 tions made thereunder.

29 F. In selecting projects, preference shall be given
30 to those which will furnish a return to the common-
31 wealth for its investment, through taxes or otherwise.

32 G. Existing rates of pay for the various grades in
33 the departments and boards shall apply under this
34 act.

35 H. Projects shall be distributed throughout the
36 commonwealth so far as practicable.

37 I. Municipalities may appropriate money in con-
38 nection with these projects and contributions from
39 any source may be received. All such sums shall be
40 deposited with the state treasurer to the use of such
41 projects.

42 J. In selecting persons to be employed under this
43 act, preference shall be given to applicants who are
44 ineligible, in whole or in part, for employment under
45 federal relief projects.

1 SECTION 3. The sum provided in section one of
2 this act is hereby allotted as follows:—

3 (a) To the department of public works,
4 dollars;

5 (b) To the department of agriculture, except the
6 reclamation board, dollars;

7 (c) To the department of agriculture, reclamation
8 board, dollars;

9 (d) To the department of conservation,
10 dollars;

11 (e) To the department of public health,
12 dollars.

