

By Mr. Webber, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 157) of Peter C. Webber, and Edward P. Kirby for legislation to reorganize the county cooperative extension system program. Counties.

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Eighty-Nine.

AN ACT REORGANIZING THE COUNTY COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SYSTEM.

*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. For a program in County Cooperative Extension  
2 work, to be conducted by the University of Massachusetts at  
3 Amherst for Barnstable, Bristol, and Plymouth County  
4 Cooperative Extension; provided that on the first day of July,  
5 nineteen hundred and eighty-nine all persons employed and  
6 positions budgeted for immediately prior to January first,  
7 nineteen hundred and eighty-eight shall be transferred to the  
8 employ of the Commonwealth and nothing herein shall be  
9 construed to alter, impair or modify the term of tenure of any  
10 such person in such employment, and the retirement rights of any  
11 such persons currently in service or retired shall not be affected  
12 hereby; provided, further, that all books, papers, records,  
13 documents and equipment purchased by the counties of  
14 Barnstable, Bristol, and Plymouth for the custody and use of  
15 Cooperative Extension prior to the effective date of this act shall  
16 become the property of the Commonwealth to be held in custody  
17 by and for the use of County Cooperative Extension in Barnstable,  
18 Bristol, and Plymouth Counties; including not more than thirty-  
19 eight positions.

1 SECTION 2. Chapter 75 of the General Laws is hereby  
2 amended by inserting after section 23 the following section: —  
3 Section 23A. The trustees shall maintain and administer

4 County Cooperative Extension system through a definite and  
5 distinct administrative division for the management and conduct  
6 of Cooperative Extension work in all fourteen counties, which  
7 shall provide for agricultural, community, family and youth  
8 programs, and such other programs for the aforementioned  
9 counties in the Commonwealth, as the trustees deem appropriate.

10 The trustees may accept gifts or donations for County  
11 Cooperative Extension from the aforementioned counties, cities  
12 and towns of the Commonwealth, other public and private entities  
13 and individual donors.

14 The trustees shall annually submit to the budget director a  
15 budget containing a detailed estimate, for the ordinary  
16 maintenance of the County Cooperative Extension and for the  
17 administration of said program. The General Court shall annually  
18 appropriate such sums as it deems necessary for administration  
19 of said programs for the maintenance, operation and support  
20 County Cooperative Extension, notwithstanding any provision of  
21 the law to the contrary, said funds shall be expended by the  
22 trustees solely for said program.

1 SECTION 3. Chapter 128 of the General Laws is hereby  
2 amended by adding section 40A: —

3 Section 40A. In all counties there shall be an unpaid board of  
4 nine trustees to be known as trustees for County Cooperative  
5 Extension. The County Commissioners of each such county shall  
6 annually appoint three trustees, qualified as hereinafter provided,  
7 to serve for three years from April first of the year of appointment,  
8 and shall fill any vacancy in said Board for the unexpired term.  
9 All of said trustees shall be residents of the county where they  
10 are appointed; there shall always be one County Commissioner  
11 from said county. No trustees, except a County Commissioner  
12 shall serve more than two consecutive full terms.

1 SECTION 4. Said Chapter 128 is hereby further amended by  
2 inserting section 42A: —

3 Section 42A. The trustees of County Cooperative Extension in  
4 all counties shall annually prepare and recommend to the Director  
5 of County Cooperative Extension a budget containing detailed

6 estimates for County Cooperative Extension in the county during  
7 the ensuing fiscal year. They shall also include in their budget  
8 submission a sum equal to the fair market value of support  
9 services, suitable quarters and space in each county. The Director  
10 of County Cooperative Extension, at such time and in such form  
11 as may be determined by the trustees of the University of  
12 Massachusetts, prepare and submit to said University trustees the  
13 total budget estimate for County Cooperative Extension.

1 SECTION 5. Notwithstanding any other provision of law to  
2 the contrary, all employees of all counties who were exclusively  
3 engaged in County Cooperative Extension work, shall be  
4 transferred to the service of the University of Massachusetts as  
5 permanent employees of the Commonwealth with such  
6 classification, title and salary within the general salary schedule  
7 as the trustees of said university deem appropriate, pursuant to  
8 section fourteen of chapter seventy-five of the General Laws;  
9 provided, however, that no salary of any transferred employee  
10 shall be reduced below that earned on said employee's anniversary  
11 date in county service.

12 All County Cooperative Extension employees who become  
13 employees of the University of Massachusetts shall be entitled to  
14 all rights, privileges, and benefits of professional or non-  
15 professional staff of the University as appropriate.

1 SECTION 6. All books, papers, equipment, furnishings,  
2 supplies, records and documents purchased by the counties and  
3 in the custody of or maintained primarily for the use of County  
4 Cooperative Extension prior to the effective date of this act shall  
5 become the property of the Commonwealth to be held in custody  
6 by and for the use of County Cooperative Extension.

1 SECTION 7. The effective date of this act shall be the first of  
2 July, nineteen hundred eighty-nine.

