

By Mr. Hermann of North Andover, petition of Joseph N. Hermann for legislation to establish a homeless assistance fund and authorizing the taxpayers of the Commonwealth to contribute on their income tax return a portion of any refund to such a fund. Taxation.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Ninety.

AN ACT ESTABLISHING A HOMELESS ASSISTANCE FUND.

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. Chapter 10 of the General Laws is hereby
2 amended by inserting after section 35H, inserted by section 1A
3 of Chapter 549 of the acts of 1987, the following section: —

4 Section 35I. There shall be established and set up on the books
5 of the commonwealth a separate fund to be known as the
6 Homeless Assistance Fund to assist homeless residents of the
7 commonwealth in obtaining shelter and sustenance. Said fund
8 shall consist of all revenues received by the commonwealth; (1)
9 under the provisions of section six G of chapter sixty-two; (2) from
10 public and private sources as gifts, grants and donations to assist
11 the homeless; and (3) from the federal government as
12 reimbursements, grants-in-aid or other receipts on account of such
13 assistance to the homeless.

14 All revenues credited under this section shall remain in said
15 Homeless Assistance Fund, not subject to appropriation, to assist
16 homeless residents of the commonwealth in obtaining shelter and
17 sustenance. The state treasurer shall not deposit said revenues in
18 or transfer said revenues to the General Fund or any other fund
19 other than the Homeless Assistance Fund.

20 The state treasurer shall deposit the fund in accordance with
21 the provisions of sections thirty-four and thirty-four A of chapter
22 twenty-nine in such manner as will secure the highest interest rate

23 available consistent with safety of the fund and with the
24 requirement that all amounts on deposit be available for
25 immediate withdrawal at any time. The fund shall be expended
26 only for the purposes stated above at the direction of a five
27 member commission to be appointed by the governor, one of
28 whom shall be a representative of the Salvation Army, one of
29 whom shall be a representative of the council of churches, one
30 of whom shall be a representative of the Catholic Charities, one
31 of whom shall be a representative of the Jewish Federation,
32 Combined Jewish Philanthropies and one of whom shall be a
33 representative of the general public and any unexpended balances
34 shall be redeposited, as herein provided, for future use consistent
35 with this section.

1 SECTION 2. Chapter 62 of the General Laws is hereby
2 amended by inserting after section 6F the following section: —

3 Section 6G. Every individual who files a separate return and
4 every husband and wife filing a return jointly may voluntarily
5 contribute all or part of any refund to which they are entitled
6 or may voluntarily add an amount onto any amount due to be
7 credited to the Homeless Assistance Fund, established pursuant
8 to section thirty-five F of chapter ten.

9 A contribution made under this section may be made with
10 respect to any taxable year at the time of filing a return of the
11 tax imposed by this chapter for such taxable year; provided,
12 however, that the commissioner shall prescribe the manner in
13 which such contribution shall be made on the face of the return
14 required by section five of chapter sixty-two C.

15 The commissioner shall annually report the total amount
16 designated under this section to the state treasurer who shall credit
17 such amount to said Homeless Assistance Fund.

1 SECTION 3. Section two shall apply to taxable years
2 commencing on or after January first, nineteen hundred and
3 ninety and before December thirty-first, nineteen hundred and
4 ninety-one.