

HOUSE No. 6053

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, April 21, 1982.

The committee on Local Affairs, to whom was referred the petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 3513) of Alfred A. Minahan, Jr., and Steven J. Karol that cities and towns be authorized to establish commissions designed to solve problems of the handicapped, reports recommending that the accompanying bill (House, No. 6053) ought to pass.

For the committee,

ROBERT A. VIGNEAU.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

AN ACT ESTABLISHING MUNICIPAL HANDICAPPED COMMISSIONS.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1 Chapter 40 of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting
2 after section 8I, inserted by chapter 384 of the acts of 1980, the
3 following section: —

4 *Section 8J.* In any city or town which accepts the provisions of
5 this section shall establish a handicapped commission, hereinafter
6 called the commission, for the purpose of coordinating or carrying
7 out programs designed to meet the problems of the handicapped in
8 coordination with programs of the office of handicapped affairs.
9 Said commission shall research local problems facing the handi-
10 capped and shall coordinate the activities of other local groups
11 organized for similar purposes, and may advertise, prepare, print,
12 and distribute books, maps, charts, plans and pamphlets necessary
13 for its work. The commission shall keep accurate records of its
14 meetings and actions and shall file an annual report which shall be
15 printed in the city or town annual report. The commission shall
16 consist of not more than seven members. In cities, the members
17 shall be appointed by the mayor, subject to the provisions of the
18 city charter except that in cities having under a Plan D or Plan E
19 form of government, said appointments shall be by the city manag-
20 er, subject to the provisions of the charter; and in towns they shall
21 be appointed by the selectmen, except towns having a manager
22 form of government, in which towns appointments shall be made
23 by the town manager, subject to the approval of the selectmen. A
24 majority of the commission members must consist of handicapped
25 persons and one of such members may be a member of the imme-
26 diate family of such handicapped person and one member of said
27 commission shall be either an elected or appointed municipal
28 official. The terms of the first members of the commission shall be

29 for one, two or three years, and so arranged that the term of one of
30 the members expires each year, and their successors shall be ap-
31 pointed for terms of three years each. Any member of the commis-
32 sion may, after a public hearing, if so requested, be removed for
33 cause by the appointing authority. A vacancy occurring otherwise
34 than by expiration of term shall be filled for the unexpired term in
35 the same manner as an original appointment. The chairman of the
36 commission shall be chosen by a majority vote of the commission
37 members. Said commission may receive gifts of property, both real
38 and personal, in the name of the city or town, subject to the
39 approval of the city council in a city or the selectmen in a town,
40 such gifts to be managed and controlled by the commission for the
41 purposes of this section. The commission shall meet at least six
42 times a year.

