

By Mr. Liederman of Malden, petition of Michael J. Daly, Robert S. Creedon, Jr., David S. Liederman, Ann C. Gannett, Nicholas J. Buglione, Anthony P. McBride and Thomas C. Wojtkowski that provision be made for the maximum community use of school facilities. Education.

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Seventy.

**AN ACT PROVIDING FOR MAXIMUM COMMUNITY USE OF SCHOOL FACILITIES.**

*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 71 of the General Laws is hereby amended by in-  
2 serting after section 71B the following new section:—

3 *Section 71C. (a)* The purpose of this section is to provide  
4 for the maximum use of school facilities as a focus for com-  
5 munity life. School facilities under this section shall be avail-  
6 able for use at all feasible times by persons of all ages for  
7 educational purposes, cultural, recreational and leisure time  
8 activities, the dispensing of social services, neighborhood  
9 group meetings and the joint involvement of educators and  
10 the community in all aspects of education.

11 *(b)* The school committee or any other public agency or  
12 department of any city or town may file with the department  
13 of education a plan for maximum use of school facilities. The  
14 plan shall contain a description of the programs which shall  
15 be established under this section, an estimate of the costs of  
16 such programs, an enumeration of the specific schools desig-  
17 nated for maximum use, a provision for the maximum pos-  
18 sible participation of community residents in the planning  
19 and implementation of all programs and such other informa-  
20 tion as the commissioner of education may require. Plans  
21 shall be considered in the order in which they are filed except  
22 that if a plan filed by the school committee of a city or town  
23 is one of two or more plans being considered at the same time

24 for such city or town, the plan proposed by the school com-  
25 mittee shall be considered prior to the other plans. The com-  
26 missioner may, within a reasonable time, approve, reject or  
27 modify plans submitted to the department. The commissioner  
28 shall have the power to withhold funds authorized under this  
29 section from agencies which fail to comply with the provisions  
30 of or any regulation promulgated pursuant to this section.

31 There shall be employed in the department of education two  
32 persons whose duties shall be to assist local agencies in the  
33 development, implementation, supervision and coordination  
34 of plans proposed under the provisions of this section.

35 (c) An approved plan shall be administered by the pro-  
36 posing agency. Such agency shall appoint a director who shall  
37 be a salaried, full-time employee, not subject to the provisions  
38 of chapter thirty-one of the General Laws, to implement and  
39 carry out the plan.

40 (d) The commonwealth shall reimburse actual expenditures  
41 made pursuant to this section in the amount of fifty percent.

42 Grants for the development of plans pursuant to paragraph  
43 (b) of this section shall be available, upon application to and  
44 approval by the department of education, in an amount not  
45 exceeding fifteen thousand dollars. In no event shall the ap-  
46 propriation under this section exceed one million dollars in  
47 any one year.

48 (e) The commissioner of education may, by regulation,  
49 further define the requirements for the content and operation  
50 of a plan proposed under this section.