

By Mr. Umana, a petition of the Massachusetts Improvement Association, Inc., by Van Ness H. Bates, President, Mario Umana, Maurice E. Frye, Jr. and David H. Locke for legislation to provide for the creation of "The Massachusetts American Bi-Centennial Authority" and for its organization, operations, financing and reporting; and for the creation of "Presidential Center" in Boston's Back Bay district as a primary bi-centennial objective to be achieved by 1976. State Administration.

## The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Seventy-Two.

AN ACT TO PROVIDE FOR THE CREATION OF "THE MASSACHUSETTS AMERICAN BI-CENTENNIAL AUTHORITY"; AND FOR ITS ORGANIZATION, OPERATIONS, FINANCING AND REPORTING; AND FOR THE CREATION OF "PRESIDENTIAL CENTER" IN BOSTON'S BACK BAY DISTRICT AS A PRIMARY BI-CENTENNIAL OBJECTIVE TO BE ACHIEVED BY 1976.

*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. Whereas*, the construction, consummation and  
2 dedication of an outstanding public and private development  
3 in the historic and distinguished Back Bay district of Boston  
4 which will honor American statesmen of presidential or asso-  
5 ciated stature, particularly those from Massachusetts, would  
6 seem to be a most fitting and nationally unique project by  
7 which Boston and Massachusetts might commemorate in a  
8 distinctive way the bi-centennial of the United States of Amer-  
9 ica in 1976; and also acquire a permanent civic and economic  
10 asset of very great value to Greater Boston and the Com-  
11 monwealth; and

12 *Whereas*, Massachusetts statesmen to be particularly com-  
13 memorated would include Presidents John Adams, John  
14 Quincy Adams, Calvin Coolidge and John Fitzgerald Ken-  
15 nedy; and Vice-Presidents Elbridge Gerry and Henry Wilson;  
16 and First President of the Continental Congress and Presi-

17 dent of the Massachusetts Convention to ratify the Constitu-  
18 tion — John Hancock; and

19 *Whereas*, Time is obviously of the essence in order that as  
20 much as possible of the overall Presidential Center develop-  
21 ment may be completed by 1976;

22 *Now therefore*, This Act is declared to be one of urgency  
23 and shall take effect upon its passage.

24 *Section 2.* There is hereby created the Massachusetts Amer-  
25 ican Bi-centennial Authority, hereinafter termed the author-  
26 ity or, by acronym, "MABA" to comprise a Commission and  
27 an Advisory Council to be organized as follows: —

28 The Secretary of Administration and Finance shall be the  
29 Chairman of the commission, and a Vice-Chairman shall be  
30 designated by the mayor of Boston. Ex-officio members shall  
31 be the commissioner of the state department of public works  
32 and the chairman of the Boston redevelopment authority. The  
33 five other members of the commission shall be the chairmen  
34 of the five council county groups and the five vice-chairmen  
35 shall be alternates. The four other members may appoint  
36 specified deputies approved by the governor. All members of  
37 the commission shall be present or represented at all meet-  
38 ings of the commission which shall be at least monthly dur-  
39 ing the first year of the existence of the authority.

40 The Advisory Council, hereinafter termed the council, shall  
41 comprise 200 members and shall be selected and elected by  
42 five county groupings in proportion to their grouping popula-  
43 tion percentage of the Commonwealth as follows: —

<i>Northeastern</i>	35%,	70 members	(Essex, 11%, Middlesex 24%)
<i>Eastern</i>	24%,	48 members	(Norfolk, 11%, Suffolk, 13%)
<i>Southeastern</i>	16%,	32 members	(Barnstable, plus Dukes and Nantucket, 2%, Bristol, 8%, Plymouth, 6%)
<i>Central</i>	11%,	22 members	(Worcester, 11%)
<i>Western</i>	14%,	28 members	(Berkshire, 3%, Franklin, 1%, Hamp- den, 8%, Hampshire, 2%)
<i>Total</i>	100%	200 members	

44 Nominees for council memberships shall be made to the  
45 county commissioners by nomination papers containing not  
46 less than 100 certified registered voters' names and addresses.  
47 All registered voters within the Commonwealth are eligible

48 for nomination except for 1. State constitutional officers and  
49 state secretaries and departmental commissioners; 2. members  
50 of the Great and General Court; 3. County officers; 4. Mayors  
51 and city councillors or aldermen; 5. Selectmen. The voters of  
52 the respective counties shall then elect their assigned num-  
53 ber in a manner similar to the election of town meeting mem-  
54 bers. The two highest voted in each county shall become the  
55 county chairman and vice-chairman. The elected county  
56 groups names shall then be referred to the governor and he  
57 shall select from each group two persons to be chairman and  
58 vice-chairman of the county groupings and ex-officio, for the  
59 entire five county groupings, to constitute the executive com-  
60 mittee of the council. The five chairmen, so chosen, shall then,  
61 ex-officio, become members of the commission with their vice-  
62 chairmen as alternates. The governor's choices shall be sub-  
63 ject to the confirmation by the county grouping commission-  
64 ers, and, if agreement cannot be reached in ten days, then  
65 the governor and the county grouping commissioners shall  
66 each name their choices and the voters of the county group-  
67 ings shall decide which are to serve.

68 *Section 3.* The authority shall have quarters in the State  
69 House or elsewhere as the governor may approve. It shall  
70 appoint an executive director and staff to be approved by the  
71 governor as to personnel and compensation. The members of  
72 the commission shall serve without compensation but may  
73 incur expenses for travel, lodging and other usual items not  
74 to exceed \$100. per month. Any compensation to council mem-  
75 bers shall be at the discretion of their respective county com-  
76 missioners and paid by the counties. The authority may re-  
77 tain consultants for such time and on such terms as the gov-  
78 ernor may approve.

79 *Section 4.* The commission and the council shall meet joint-  
80 ly at least twice a year, and such meetings shall be open to  
81 the public to attend and also to speak at the discretion of the  
82 chairman if sponsored by a member. Any registered voter,  
83 if not heard on any specific matter, shall be heard at the next  
84 commission or joint meeting upon written petition endorsed

85 by at least ten other registered voters by written name and  
86 address.

87 *Section 5.* The three prime duties of the authority shall be  
88 (1) to study and recommend all ways and means by which  
89 the Commonwealth may participate to advantage in the forth-  
90 coming American Bi-Centennial commemoration; (2) to ex-  
91 pedite the development of Presidential Center; and (3) to  
92 cause studies to be made as to how traffic and transit facilities  
93 can be improved within and aroundabout the center which  
94 shall be defined as the area in Boston from the corner of  
95 Tremont and Boylston streets up Boylston to Dartmouth St.,  
96 Dartmouth to Buckingham St., Buckingham to Columbus Ave.  
97 at Clarendon St., Columbus Ave. to Stuart St., Stuart St. to  
98 Tremont St. and Tremont St. to Boylston St. These studies  
99 shall include the petitioners' proposals for (a) "The Com-  
100 monway" from Commonwealth Ave. to Summer St.; (b) "The  
101 South End Bypass" from Carlton St. to Herald St.; and (c)  
102 "The Back Bay Expressway" crosstown from Cambridge to  
103 the South Bay area via Exeter and Brookline streets.

104 *Section 6.* The authority shall make an estimated first an-  
105 nual budget as soon as possible subject to revision or ap-  
106 proval of the governor. The authority may thereafter receive  
107 contributions from any source, including any forms of federal  
108 aid; and may conduct county-wide campaigns annually for  
109 funds under the supervision of its council county members  
110 and their county commissioners. If sufficient funds are not  
111 raised then the authority may assess the counties so many  
112 cents per \$1000. of assessed real valuations as may be neces-  
113 sary, as certified to and approved by the governor; and the  
114 several counties shall thereupon raise and transmit the pro-  
115 ceeds to the authority within 60 days after notice to the  
116 counties by the authority.

117 *Section 7.* The provisions of this Act are separable, and the  
118 invalidity of one or more shall not affect the rest.