

By Mr. John J. Finnegan of Boston, petition of John J. Finnegan and another that provision be made for changes in the physical boundaries and financial and other affairs of Norfolk, Plymouth and Suffolk counties. Counties.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Seventy-Four.

AN ACT TO PROVIDE FOR CHANGES IN THE PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES AND FINANCIAL AND OTHER AFFAIRS OF NORFOLK, PLYMOUTH AND SUFFOLK COUNTIES.

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. — *Emergency Preamble.*

2 *Whereas*, it appears inequitable and unjust for the cities of
3 Chelsea and Revere and the town of Winthrop not to pay their
4 full and fair share of Suffolk county taxes; and

5 *Whereas*, the town of Brookline is obviously geographically
6 and economically and socially practically the “western ward” of
7 the city of Boston; and

8 *Whereas*, the towns of Hingham and Hull are logically eastern
9 parts of Norfolk county, and only historically parts of Plymouth
10 county; and

11 *Whereas*, county revisions or consolidations and transfer of
12 several expensive functions — such as Courts, Hospitals, Prisons,
13 etc. — to the Commonwealth are increasingly debated and
14 indicated on a statewide scale;

15 Now therefore, this act shall take effect upon its passage.

1 SECTION 2. — *County Municipal Changes.*

2 As of January 1, 1974, the town of Brookline shall become a
3 part of Suffolk county; and the towns of Hingham and Hull shall
4 become parts of Norfolk county; and all three towns, plus the
5 cities of Chelsea and Revere and the town of Winthrop shall pay
6 county taxes in the same manner and proportion as other

7 municipalities in the Commonwealth.

1 SECTION 3. – *Authority of Attorney General.*

2 All transitional matters shall be subject to the supervision and
3 approval of the attorney general of the Commonwealth who shall
4 also have the power to permit specific extensions of time –
5 except for payment of taxes – up to June 30, 1974.

1 SECTION 4. – *Separability of Items.*

2 The provisions of this act are separable; and the invalidity of
3 any one or more shall not affect the validity of the rest.