

# HOUSE . . . . . No. 6262

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## *The Commonwealth of Massachusetts*

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HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, June 11, 1974.

The committee on Counties on the part of the House, to whom were referred the petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 216) of William Q. MacLean, Jr., that the county commissioners of Bristol County be authorized to construct a new building for the superior and probate courts and various departments of said county; and the petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 418) of Max Volterra relative to the construction of a new building for the Superior Court and probate courts, jail and various departments of Bristol County, report recommending that the accompanying bill (House, No. 6262) ought to pass.

For the committee,

CHARLES F. FLAHERTY, Jr.

## The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

AN ACT AUTHORIZING THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF BRISTOL COUNTY TO CONSTRUCT A NEW BUILDING FOR THE SUPERIOR AND PROBATE COURTS AND VARIOUS DEPARTMENTS OF SAID COUNTY.

*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. For the purposes of providing new and  
2 adequate accommodations and facilities for the superior court,  
3 probate court and various county departments, the county  
4 commissioners of Bristol county are hereby authorized to  
5 construct on a site within the territorial limits of the city of  
6 Taunton and either (a) east of highway route 24, or (b) within  
7 one mile west of that route a building to be known as the Bristol  
8 county central court house and office building, and shall furnish  
9 and equip the same. The site shall be selected within the area  
10 described above by the county commissioners and the plans for  
11 the building shall be prepared, subject in each case to the written  
12 approval, as suitable and adequate for court purposes, of a  
13 majority of a planning committee to consist of (1) a justice of  
14 the superior court designated by the chief justice of that court,  
15 (2) the first judge of the probate court for Bristol county, and  
16 (3) the executive secretary of the supreme judicial court, for the  
17 time being, who shall serve as chairman of the committee. Said  
18 building shall contain court rooms and facilities for the superior  
19 court and probate court and shall house the offices of the clerk  
20 of the courts, the district attorney, Public Defender, probation  
21 office, county commissioners, county treasurer, sheriff, hearing  
22 rooms, conference rooms, jurors' rooms, law library, judges' and  
23 lawyers' lounges, press room, and maintenance department. Said  
24 commissioners may take by eminent domain under chapter  
25 seventy-nine of the General Laws, or acquire by purchase or  
26 otherwise, any land that may be necessary for the purposes of  
27 this act, including a sufficient area for the parking of motor  
28 vehicles of persons in attendance upon said court. Said

29 commissioners may expend for the purposes of this act including  
30 the preparation of plans and specifications in connection  
31 therewith and for landscaping such sums as may be necessary not  
32 exceeding, in the aggregate, eleven million one hundred thousand  
33 dollars (\$11,100,000). Any sums received from the federal  
34 government for the purposes of this act shall be included in, and  
35 considered a part of, the total amount authorized to be expended  
36 hereunder.

1 SECTION 2. For the purposes set forth in section one, the  
2 treasurer of Bristol county, with the approval of the county  
3 commissioners, may borrow from time to time on the credit of  
4 the county such sums as may be necessary, not exceeding, in the  
5 aggregate, eleven million one hundred thousand dollars  
6 (\$11,100,000), and may issue bonds or notes of the county  
7 therefor which shall bear on their face the words, Bristol County  
8 Central Court House and Office Building Loan, Act of 1974.  
9 Each authorized issue shall constitute a separate loan, and such  
10 loans shall be payable not more than fifteen years from their  
11 dates. The bonds or notes shall be signed by the county treasurer  
12 and countersigned by a majority of the county commissioners.  
13 The county may sell the said securities at public or private sale,  
14 upon such terms and conditions as the county commissioners  
15 may deem proper, but not for less than their par value.  
16 Indebtedness incurred hereunder shall, except as herein provided,  
17 be subject to chapter thirty-five of the General Laws. The county  
18 treasurer, with the approval of the county commissioners, may  
19 issue temporary notes of the county, payable in not more than  
20 one year from their date, in anticipation of the issue of serial  
21 bonds or notes under this act, but the time within which such  
22 serial bonds or notes shall become due and payable shall not, by  
23 reason of such temporary notes, be extended beyond the time  
24 fixed by this act. Any notes issued in anticipation of the serial  
25 bonds or notes shall be paid from the proceeds thereof.

1 SECTION 3. Upon the completion of the building as  
2 provided for in section one, the county commissioners, on such  
3 terms as the county commissioners may deem appropriate, are  
4 hereby authorized to use, or to permit the use of the present

5 superior court courthouse in Taunton or any parts thereof for  
6 state, county, or municipal business or by any federal  
7 department or agency. The county commissioners are hereby  
8 authorized to utilize for county business any facilities, other than  
9 the present Superior courthouse in Taunton, vacated as the result  
10 of the construction of and removal to said new building  
11 authorized by section one, provided, however, in the event the  
12 county commissioners feel that any vacated facilities other than  
13 the present Superior courthouse in Taunton are not suitable for  
14 county business, they may sell said vacated premises at public or  
15 private sale or may demolish such facilities and make such use of  
16 the property as, in their opinion, is in the best interest of said  
17 county.

1 SECTION 4. This act shall take effect upon its passage.