By Mr. Backman, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 896) of Jack H. Backman for legislation to increase the number of foot patrolmen in the Commonwealth and to establish citizens review councils.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

AN ACT TO INCREASE THE NUMBER OF FOOT PATROLMEN IN THE COMMONWEALTH AND TO ESTABLISH CITIZENS REVIEW COUNCILS.

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 41 of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after section 98B the following additional section: —

3 Section 98C. It is hereby declared to be the policy of the commonwealth to assure every citizen full and adequate police protection and to promote and encourage citizen participation in the planning, operation, and evaluation of law enforcement program. For these purposes, there is hereby established a Footpatrolman Incentive Program for the cities and towns of the commonwealth. Any city or town of the commonwealth which has a population of fifty thousand or more and which accepts the provisions of this section shall receive reimbursement from the commonwealth for seventy percent (70%) of the cost of increasing the number of footpatrolmen in said city or town above the number of footpatrolmen employed by said city or town as of January the first, nineteen hundred and seventy-seven. “Footpatrolman” for the purposes of this section shall mean a police officer on foot patrol as defined in section 98B; and reimbursement under this section shall apply only with respect to the salaries of said additional footpatrolmen.

21 The Department of Public Safety shall certify the amount of reimbursement to be paid to such city or town under the
provision of this section from information filed on or before
September the first of each year with said department on a
form furnished by said department and completed by the chief
of police, or one of similar rank, or said city or town police
department, and approved by the local Citizen-Police Review
Council.

Any city or town wishing to receive reimbursement under
the provisions of this section shall establish a Citizen-Police
Review Council. Said Council shall consist of fifteen (15)
members appointed by the mayor or board of selectmen of the
city or town in accordance with the following provisions:

There shall be appointed to each Council the following:

a) six members or representatives of the local police force
who reside in the city or town; and

b) nine residents of the city or town, including at least one
resident of a project of the local housing authority, if there be
a housing authority in such city or town. If there are more
than 3 projects of the local housing authority, then there shall
be at least two members of the Council who reside in a project
of the local housing authority;

c) In appointing members to the Council, the mayor or
board of selectmen shall give special consideration to the areas
of the city or town that, according to the statistics compiled
by the local police department, have the highest incidence of
criminal activity and shall appoint to the Council members or
representatives of the police force and members of the com-
munity who reside in such high crime areas. The majority of
the membership of the Council shall, at all times, be residents
of such high crime areas.

Each member of the Council shall serve for a term of two
years, commencing from the date of appointment. No member
of the Council shall serve more than two consecutive terms.
Vacancies occurring in the Council, other than by expiration
of term, shall be filled by the mayor or board of selectmen;
provided that such vacancies shall be filled so that the Coun-
cil shall always conform to the regulations put forward in this
section. The chairman of the Council shall be designated from
time to time by the membership, and the Council shall meet
upon call of its chairman, or upon request of four or more of
its members. Members of the Council may be removed by the mayor or board of selectmen, but only for misconduct in office, disability, or neglect of duty, and only after a public hearing. Members shall serve without reimbursement but may employ staff subject to authorization from the city council or board of selectmen.

The Citizen-Police Review Council shall have the following powers and duties:

a) The Council shall make recommendations to the police department as to the deployment of such additional foot patrolmen as may be employed through the provisions of this section and shall make periodic evaluations of the effectiveness of such deployment;

b) The Council shall make evaluations of and recommendations to the police department concerning the deployment of all police officers and other police matters, including matters relating to traffic, parking, and towing regulations;

c) The Council shall plan and evaluate programs for increased communication and cooperation between the citizens of the town or city and the police force;

d) The Council shall seek, apply for, encourage, and evaluate the use of all federal funds for law enforcement purposes;

e) The Council shall establish procedures for receiving and processing complaints and grievances arising from the day to day operation of the police force;

f) The Council shall investigate, at its discretion, said complaints and grievances;

g) The Council shall make recommendations to the chief of police or one of similar rank, as to any corrective action that should be made in regards to any complaint or grievance; and

h) The Council shall submit an annual report to the mayor or board of selectmen detailing its recommendations, evaluations, and activities under clauses (a) through (g) inclusive.