

By Mr. Tobin, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 1406) of Arthur H. Tobin for legislation relative to the alleviation of the financial burden imposed on certain cities and towns located within counties certified as disaster areas resulting from the great storm of nineteen hundred and seventy-eight. Ways and Means (Joint).

## The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

AN ACT RELATIVE TO THE ALLEVIATION OF THE FINANCIAL BURDEN IMPOSED ON CERTAIN CITIES AND TOWNS LOCATED WITHIN COUNTIES CERTIFIED AS DISASTER AREAS RESULTING FROM THE GREAT STORM OF NINETEEN HUNDRED AND SEVENTY-EIGHT.

*Whereas*, The deferred operation of this act would tend to defeat its purpose, which is to provide funds immediately for the cost of emergency public services expended by certain cities and towns located within counties certified as disaster areas by the governor as the result of the catastrophic flooding, wind and snow damage wreaked by the Great Storm of nineteen hundred and seventy-eight which commenced on February sixth, therefore it is hereby declared to be an emergency law, necessary for the immediate preservation of the public health and safety.

*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. To provide for the purpose of disaster relief and  
 2 to meet the expense of emergency police, fire, public works,  
 3 civil defense and other public services already expended and to  
 4 be expended by certain cities and towns in order to protect  
 5 and maintain the health and safety of the inhabitants of said  
 6 cities and towns during the emergency created by the cata-  
 7 strophic flooding, wind and snow damage caused by the Great  
 8 Storm of nineteen hundred and seventy-eight which com-  
 9 menced on February sixth, the sum of fifty million dollars is  
 10 hereby made available for transfer by the governor, acting  
 11 through the secretary of administration and finance, to the  
 12 mayors and selectmen of the said various cities and towns as

13 hereinafter regulated.

14 1. Cities and towns located within the counties of Barn-  
15 stable, Dukes, Essex, Plymouth, Middlesex, Nantucket, Nor-  
16 folk and Suffolk, already designated by the governor as dis-  
17 aster areas as the result of said storm may apply for im-  
18 mediate monetary relief funds for the payment of the expense  
19 incurred or to be incurred for the costs of emergency public  
20 services provided or to be provided for the protection of the  
21 health and safety of their respective inhabitants during the  
22 emergency created by the results of the said great storm.

23 2. Following designation and approval by the governor of  
24 the applicant city or town as one eligible for relief under this  
25 act, a further determination shall be made by the governor,  
26 upon the basis of the application of each such eligible city and  
27 town and the advice of the director of civil defense, of the pro-  
28 portionate amount of the funds made available herein which  
29 shall be paid to such city or town, whereupon payment of said  
30 amount shall be made to the mayor or selectmen of the city  
31 or town.

1 SECTION 2. The state treasurer may borrow from time to  
2 time on the credit of the commonwealth such sums of money  
3 as may be necessary for the purposes of meeting payments au-  
4 thorized by section one of this act, and may issue and renew  
5 from time to time notes of the commonwealth therefor, bear-  
6 ing interest payable at such times and at such rates as shall  
7 be fixed by the state treasurer. Such notes shall be issued and  
8 may be renewed one or more times for such terms, not ex-  
9 ceeding one year, as the governor may recommend to the gen-  
10 eral court in accordance with Section 3 of Article LXII of the  
11 Amendments to the Constitution of the Commonwealth, but  
12 the final maturities of such notes, whether original or renewal,  
13 shall not be later than June thirtieth, nineteen hundred and  
14 ninety-two.

1 SECTION 3. To meet the expenditures necessary in carrying  
2 out the provisions of section one of this act, the state treasurer  
3 shall, upon request of the governor, issue and sell at public or  
4 private sale bonds of the commonwealth, registered or with

5 interest coupons attached, as he may deem best, to an amount  
6 to be specified by the governor from time to time, but not ex-  
7 ceeding in the aggregate, the sum of fifty million dollars. All  
8 bonds issued by the commonwealth, as aforesaid, shall be des-  
9 igned on their fact, Cities and Towns Disaster Relief Loan,  
10 Act of 1978, and shall be on the serial payment plan for such  
11 maximum term of years, not exceeding ten years, as the gov-  
12 ernor may recommend to the general court pursuant to Sec-  
13 tion 3 of Article LXII of the Amendments to the Constitution  
14 of the Commonwealth, the maturities thereof to be arranged  
15 so that the amounts payable in the several years of amortiza-  
16 tion other than the final year shall be as nearly equal as in the  
17 opinion of the state treasurer it is practicable to make them.  
18 Said bonds shall bear interest semiannually at such rate as the  
19 state treasurer, with the approval of the governor shall fix.

20 The initial maturities of such bonds shall be payable not  
21 later than one year from the date of issue thereof and the en-  
22 tire issue not later than June thirtieth, nineteen hundred and  
23 ninety-two.

