

By Mr. Olver, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 534) of John W. Olver and other members of the General Court for legislation to provide for the rehabilitation of existing town halls in the Commonwealth. Housing and Urban Development.

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**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

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In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Eighty-Seven.

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AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE REHABILITATION OF EXISTING TOWN HALLS  
IN THE COMMONWEALTH.

*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. There is hereby established a program through-  
2 out the Commonwealth, within the executive office of  
3 communities and development, to rehabilitate existing town and  
4 city halls currently used for local government purposes. Said  
5 program shall be administered by the executive office of  
6 communities and development as established under chapter  
7 twenty-three B of the General Laws.

8 The sum set forth in section two, inclusive of this act, is hereby  
9 made available, subject to the provisions of law regulating the  
10 disbursement of public funds and approval thereof.

1 SECTION 2. For the purposes of implementing section one,  
2 there is hereby appropriated seven and one-half million dollars  
3 for matching state competitive grants which shall include  
4 administragive costs incurred by said executive office of  
5 communities and development and the Massachusetts historic  
6 commission. Said executive office of communities and  
7 development shall not allocate more than two hundred and fifty  
8 thousand dollars for any individual project proposed by a  
9 municipality. A community recipient of such grant shall provide  
10 matching funds in an amount no less than twenty-five percent of  
11 the project cost.

1 SECTION 3. In the awarding of such grants, priority shall be  
2 given to communities on the basis of: (1) fiscal need; (2) grant  
3 applications representing the highest percentage of total  
4 renovation; and (3) the cultural and historical significance of the  
5 existing structure.

6 The criteria for the awarding of such grants shall be established  
7 by said executive office of communities and development in  
8 consultation with said Massachusetts historic commission.

9 Final selection of grant recipients shall be made by said  
10 executive office of communities and development with  
11 consideration given to the recommendations of the Massachusetts  
12 historic commission.

1 SECTION 4. No community shall be eligible for any monies  
2 appropriated in section two unless said community has fully  
3 complied with Executive Order 215.

1 SECTION 5. There shall be a pre-application process from  
2 which selections shall be made for final applicants. Pre-  
3 application procedures and criteria shall be established by said  
4 executive office of communities and development in consultation  
5 with the said Massachusetts historic commission. Said  
6 commission shall provide to applicants, in fiscal need and with  
7 a town or city hall eligible for nomination to the National Register  
8 of Historical Places, technical assistance in the preparation of  
9 design plans for the final application procedure.

1 SECTION 6. The executive office of communities and  
2 development and the Massachusetts historic commission shall  
3 have final approval of all specifications and design plans for town  
4 or city halls eligible for nomination to the National Register of  
5 Historical Places. Final approval of all specifications and design  
6 plans for town or city halls not eligible for such nomination shall  
7 be made only by the said executive office of communities and  
8 development.

1 SECTION 7. The Massachusetts historic commission is  
2 hereby authorized and directed to conduct a survey and inventory  
3 of city and town halls in the commonwealth and maintain a record  
4 of the same for use in carrying out the provisions of this act.