

HOUSE No. 4441

By Mr. Businger of Brookline, petition of John A. Businger for legislation to provide that the Commonwealth assume the cost of assuring that polling places are accessible to handicapped and elderly voters. Election Laws.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Ninety-Two.

AN ACT PROVIDING THAT THE COMMONWEALTH SHALL ASSUME THE COST OF ASSURING THAT POLLING PLACES ARE ACCESSIBLE TO HANDICAPPED AND ELDERLY VOTERS.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1 Subject to appropriation, the commonwealth shall pay to cities
2 and towns their costs of assuring that all polling places for federal
3 elections are accessible to handicapped and elderly voters, as
4 required by section three of the federal Voting Accessibility for
5 the Elderly and Handicapped Act. Not later than September
6 fifteenth of the current year, the state auditor shall determine and
7 deliver to the state secretary a statement of said costs for each
8 city and town. The state secretary shall include in his budget
9 recommendations for the succeeding fiscal year a request for an
10 appropriation in an amount equal to such estimated costs, and
11 shall distribute to each city and town its share of any such
12 appropriated funds as soon as possible after their appropriation.
13 Funds so distributed to each city and town shall be deposited in
14 the general fund of the city or town and shall be expended without
15 further appropriation by the city or town to meet said costs.

