

By Mr. Scaccia of Boston, petition of Angelo M. Scaccia for legislation to authorize the Commonwealth to contract with community action agencies for certain services. Federal Financial Assistance.

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

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

AN ACT AUTHORIZING THE COMMONWEALTH TO CONTRACT WITH COMMUNITY ACTION AGENCIES FOR CERTAIN SERVICES.

*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 23B of the General Laws is hereby amended by striking  
2 out section Twenty-four and inserting in place thereof the  
3 following: —

4 *Section 24.* It is the policy of this state to help further the full  
5 economic and social development of each of its citizens so that  
6 they can contribute to the strength of the state as a whole. The  
7 resources of the private sector of the economy in particular, along  
8 with the resources of the public and voluntary sectors, should be  
9 employed to increase the opportunities for all people, young and  
10 old, minority and non-minority to develop to their fullest econ-  
11 omic and social potential. It is the purpose of this section to  
12 strengthen, supplement and coordinate efforts that further these  
13 policies.

14 (a) As used or referred to in this section, the following words  
15 shall, unless the context requires otherwise, having the following  
16 meanings: —

17 "Community action agency," a non-profit agency which has  
18 previously been designated by and authorized to accept funds from  
19 the federal Community Services Administration for Community  
20 Action Agencies under the Economic Opportunity Act of 1964, or

21 such similar agency as is recognized as a community action agency  
22 by the division for an area not covered by any other such agency,  
23 which maintains a corporate board structure of up to one-third  
24 public officials, one-third private sector volunteers, and one-third  
25 democratically elected/selected representatives of the poor, with  
26 no fewer than 18 members and no greater than 51 members. The  
27 number of such agencies shall not exceed twenty-five.

28 "Division," the division of social and economic opportunity of  
29 the Office of Communities and Development, or any successor  
30 thereto.

31 (b) The provisions of this section shall be applicable to the  
32 awarding of contracts by the division under the Federal Commu-  
33 nity Services Block Grant or its successor. No less than ninety  
34 percent of the total CSBG funds received by the state shall be  
35 contracted directly with community action agencies. No more  
36 than five percent of the total CSBG funds received by the state  
37 shall be allocated to the division for its administrative expenses.  
38 No less than five percent of the total CSBG funds shall be awarded  
39 by the division to innovative statewide programs which a) received  
40 financial assistance from the Community Services Administration  
41 under Section 221 or Section 222 (a) (4) of the Economic Oppor-  
42 tunity Act of 1964 in the federal fiscal year 1981, or b) provide  
43 community economic development activities through community  
44 development corporations as defined in Chapter 40F, Section 1.  
45 No less than two percent of the total Community Services Block  
46 Grant funds shall be set aside for community development  
47 corporations.

48 The Commonwealth, acting by and through the division, shall  
49 enter into a contract with a community action agency for the  
50 provision of services, consistent with the purpose of this section,  
51 which the community action agency agrees to furnish pursuant to  
52 a workplan adopted by the board of such agency.

53 The Commonwealth acting by and through the division may,  
54 subject to appropriation, provide supplementary funds to com-  
55 munity action agencies for the purposes of this section.

56 No political subdivision or group of political subdivisions shall  
57 be served by more than one designated community action agency.  
58 Each community action agency receiving funds under this section

59 shall report to the Commonwealth annually, through an indepen-  
60 ent audit, concerning the use of these funds.

61 Recognition of a community action agency by the division of  
62 social and economic opportunity shall not preclude the agency  
63 from receiving other grants or contracts from federal or local  
64 agencies, private organizations, individuals or state agencies,  
65 including the division of social and economic opportunity, or its  
66 successor thereto, and subject to appropriation for that purpose  
67 the division may also enter into contracts with community action  
68 agencies to provide other services.

