

By Mr. Beckwith of Reading, petition of Geoffrey C. Beckwith, Suzanne M. Bump, Thomas F. Brownell, Carmen D. Buell and Joseph K. Mackey for legislation to establish a local aid bonus fund board. Taxation.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

AN ACT ESTABLISHING A LOCAL AID BONUS FUND.

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. Chapter 6 of the General Laws is hereby amended
2 in section 17 by inserting in the twenty-second line after the word,
3 "blind", the following words: — the local aid bonus fund board.

1 SECTION 2. Chapter 6 of the General Laws is hereby further
2 amended by inserting after section 189 the following new sec-
3 tion: —

4 *Section 190.* There shall be a board, to be known as the Local
5 Aid Bonus Fund Board, hereinafter known as the board, which
6 shall consist of the secretaries of the executive offices of human
7 services and communities and development or their designees; two
8 members of the Massachusetts Municipal Association to be chosen
9 by the executive director of the association; the president of the
10 Massachusetts's Taxpayer's Foundation or his designee; and the
11 president of a private institution of higher learning located in the
12 commonwealth and a member of the lay public who shall not be an
13 employee of any city or town, both of whom shall be chosen by the
14 preceding five members and shall serve for terms of three years,
15 whereupon their successors shall be chosen in the same manner for
16 the same terms. All of the members of the board shall serve without
17 compensation but shall receive reimbursement for necessary ex-
18 penses incurred in the discharge of their official duties. The chair-
19 man of the board shall be designated from time to time by the
20 governor.

21 The board shall be responsible for making annual distribution
22 awards from the local aid bonus fund established by section 2H of
23 chapter 29 of the General Laws.

1 SECTION 3. Chapter 29 of the General Laws is hereby amend-
2 ed by inserting after section 2G the following new section: —

3 *Section 2H.* There shall be established and set up on the books
4 of the commonwealth a separate fund to be known as the Local Aid
5 Bonus Fund. There shall annually be deposited in the fund one per-
6 cent of the amount annually appropriated by the general court for
7 the Additional Assistance to Cities and Towns program.

1 SECTION 4. Chapter 58 of the General Laws is hereby amend-
2 ed by inserting after section 18D the following new sections: —

3 *Section 18E.* The state treasurer, upon certification of the
4 commissioner and without further appropriation, shall annually
5 distribute to certain cities and towns amounts from the local aid
6 bonus fund, established by section 2H of chapter 29 of the General
7 Laws and hereinafter known as the fund, in accordance with
8 awards made by the local aid bonus fund board, established by
9 section 190 of chapter 6 of the General Laws and hereinafter
10 known as the board. Such awards shall be made to not more than
11 ten cities and towns annually which are currently operating pro-
12 grams which have been in existence for at least six months prior to
13 the date of the award, which address important social, health,
14 economic, environmental, or administrative problems affecting
15 the community, which are not mandated by any federal or state
16 law, regulation, or grant requirement, and which are judged by the
17 board to be worthy of recognition. Such programs may include but
18 shall not be limited to activities which: —

19 (a) Reduce the rate of recidivism among criminal offenders.

20 (b) Promote the use of alternative energy resources or energy
21 conservation.

22 (c) Reduce teenage unemployment.

23 (d) Increase voter participation.

24 (e) Improve community nutrition standards.

25 (f) Reduce rates of juvenile delinquency.

26 (g) Improve the performance of public school students.

- 27 (h) Enhance the environmental quality of the community.
28 (i) Increase the supply of affordable housing.
29 (j) Reduce alcoholism and drug abuse.
30 (k) Increase the efficiency and reduce the cost of local govern-
31 ment.

32 *Section 18F.* The amount of each award shall be determined at
33 the discretion of the board according to the following criteria: —

- 34 (a) The degree to which the program has demonstrated measur-
35 able success in achieving its stated goals.
36 (b) The cost-effectiveness of the program.
37 (c) The relative difficulty in achieving the goals of the program.
38 (d) The importance or severity of the problem addressed by the
39 program.

40 No city or town shall receive a distribution from the fund in
41 excess of thirty per cent of the total amount available for distribu-
42 tion in a single year, not shall any city or town receive more than
43 one distribution from the fund in a single year. The board shall
44 promulgate rules and regulations, subject to the provisions of
45 chapter 30A of the General Laws, for considering cities and towns
46 for awards from the fund.

47 The board shall file with the house clerk no later than the first
48 Wednesday of April each year a report of the distributions made
49 from the fund along with a description of each program operated in
50 accordance with this section by the recipient cities and towns. The
51 clerk shall forward said report to the joint committee on local
52 affairs and to the house and senate ways and means committees.
53 The board shall also transmit a copy of the report to the clerk of
54 each city and town no later than July first each year. The clerk shall
55 forward said copy to the city council or board of selectmen.

1 SECTION 5. Chapter 58 of the General Laws is hereby further
2 amended in section 25A by striking out in the second line after the
3 letter, "B", the word, "and", and inserting after the letter, "C", in
4 the same line the following words: — and eighteen D.

