

By Mr. Bevilacqua of Haverhill, petition of Francis J. Bevilacqua for legislation to further regulate the conduct of county advisory boards. Counties.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

AN ACT FURTHER REGULATING THE CONDUCT OF COUNTY ADVISORY BOARDS.

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 35 of the General Laws is hereby amended by striking
2 out section 28B, inserted by section 1 of chapter 1166 of the acts
3 of 1973, and inserting in place thereof the following section: —
4 *Section 28B.* In every county other than Suffolk and
5 Nantucket, there shall be an advisory board to the county
6 commissioners consisting of the city manager, or his designee, in
7 the case of a Plan D or Plan E city or the mayor of each other
8 city, or the chairman of the board of selectmen of each town,
9 and the town manager or administrator in a town which does
10 not have selectmen constituting the county. The member of the
11 board from the city having the largest population shall be
12 chairman of the board and the member from the town having
13 the largest population shall be vice-chairman and in the absence
14 of both the board shall appoint an interim chairman. Each
15 chairman may, by writing filed with the county commissioners,
16 from time to time appoint another member of ths board of
17 selectmen as his designee on the advisory board. Each city and
18 town shall have one vote on the advisory board plus additional
19 votes and fractions thereof determined by multiplying one and
20 one half times the total number of cities and towns in the county
21 by a fraction of which the numerator shall be the total amount
22 of all assessments made by the state treasurer to such city or
23 town for expenses of county government and the denominator
24 shall be the total amount of all assessments made by the state

25 treasurer to all such cities and towns. The total vote of each city
26 or town shall be determined by the director of accounts and
27 delivered in writing to the advisory board thirty days after the
28 state treasurer has sent his warrants for payments to the cities
29 and towns. The determination of votes shall be based upon the
30 most recent annual assessment.

31 The advisory board prior to the submission of estimates of
32 receipts and expenditures by the county clerk to the director of
33 accounts may make recommendations concerning such expen-
34 ditures and said recommendations shall be reported to the
35 director and county treasurer by the clerk of the county
36 commissioners. The advisory board may make recommen-
37 dations concerning any proposed expenditures in whole or in
38 part, at a meeting called by the representative or representatives
39 of cities and towns having sixty per cent or more of the votes of
40 the advisory board. The advisory board shall act by a majority
41 vote, except that it may delegate its power of approval to an
42 executive committee formed and elected pursuant to duly
43 adopted by-laws of the board and constituting among its
44 members at least one half of the total vote of the board, and
45 may, at any time, revoke such delegation. The board shall hold
46 an annual meeting each year on the second Tuesday of
47 February, which meeting shall not be held before the hour of
48 six-thirty post meridian on said date. A quorum for meetings of
49 the board to transact business shall consist of members
50 representing at least forty per cent of the cities and towns and to
51 be effective each vote must receive at least fifty per cent of the
52 vote the total members of such advisory board.

53 The first meeting of the board shall be held in the community
54 of the chairman and one meeting of the board shall be held in
55 each city or town at least once every six years unless fewer
56 meetings are held than there are city and town members on the
57 board.