

SENATE No. 142

By Mrs. Swift, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 142) of Jane M. Swift and Shaun P. Kelly for legislation to establish a regional services fund in Hampshire County. Counties.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR A REGIONAL SERVICES FUND IN HAMPSHIRE COUNTY.

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. Section 3 of chapter 64D of the General Laws, as
2 appearing in the 1990 Official Edition, is hereby amended by
3 adding the following paragraph: —

4 In any county establishing a Regional Services Fund, the
5 county commissioners shall be responsible for providing stamps.

1 SECTION 2. Section 3A of said chapter 64D, as so appearing,
2 is hereby amended by adding the following paragraph: —

3 This section does not apply to a county that has established a
4 Regional Services Fund.

1 SECTION 3. Section 3B of said chapter 64D, as so appearing,
2 is hereby amended by adding the following paragraph: —

3 This section does not apply to a county that has established a
4 Regional Services Fund.

1 SECTION 4. Section 4 of said chapter 64D, as so appearing, is
2 hereby amended by adding the following paragraph: —

3 The responsibility of the commissioner as described in this sec-
4 tion is transferred to the county commission of any county that
5 has established a Regional Services Fund.

1 SECTION 5. Section 6 of said chapter 64D, as so appearing, is
2 hereby amended by adding the following paragraph: —

3 The responsibility of the commissioner as described in this sec-
4 tion is transferred to the county commission of any county that
5 has established a Regional Service Fund.

1 SECTION 6. Section 6A of said chapter 64D, as so appearing,
2 is hereby amended by adding the following paragraph: —

3 The responsibility of the commissioner as described in this sec-
4 tion is transferred to the county commission of any county that
5 has established a Regional Services Fund.

1 SECTION 7. Said chapter 64D is hereby amended by striking
2 out section 10, as so appearing, and inserting in place thereof the
3 following section: —

4 Section 10. The taxes provided by this chapter shall be retained
5 by the commonwealth unless the governing body of a county
6 which is organized under chapter thirty-four A or any other gen-
7 eral or special law providing for approval by the voters of said
8 county for the organization thereof, votes to establish a Regional
9 Services Fund pursuant to this section; provided, however, that
10 there shall be established upon the books of each such county a
11 separate fund, maintained separate and apart from all other funds
12 and accounts of each county, to be known as the Regional
13 Services Fund.

14 Notwithstanding any contrary provisions of this chapter or any
15 other general or special law to the contrary, on the first day of
16 each month, fifty percent of the taxes collected pursuant to the
17 provisions of this chapter shall be transmitted in accordance with
18 the provisions of section eleven; provided, however, that if the
19 county commissioners of any county not eligible to establish
20 Regional Services Fund vote to directly fund Co-operative Exten-
21 sion, the commissioners shall enter into a contract as described in
22 section fourteen of this chapter and draw and approve an order
23 which shall be certified by their clerk, directing the register of
24 deeds of such county to pay on the first day of each month to the
25 county treasurer from the funds of the deeds excise tax appor-
26 tioned under this section one-twelfth the sum of money necessary
27 to meet the obligation of such county for the yearly cost of oper-

28 ating Co-operative Extension in that county as established in sec-
29 tion fourteen.

1 SECTION 8. Said chapter 64D of the General Laws, as so
2 appearing, is hereby amended by adding the following section: —

3 Section 14. There is hereby established on the books of Hamp-
4 shire county a separate fund to be known as the Regional Services
5 Fund. Said Fund shall be maintained separate and apart from all
6 other funds and accounts of the county. Monies from the fund
7 shall be used to provide those regional services to the citizens and
8 municipalities of Hampshire county as appropriated by the County
9 Commission including, but not limited to, Co-operative
10 Extension.

11 The initial contract and budget to operate Co-operative Exten-
12 sion in Hampshire county shall be based on services actually ren-
13 dered to citizens of said county, using a rolling three year average
14 of the cost of such services. Thereafter, the Co-operative Exten-
15 sion Board of Trustees in said county shall provide to the state
16 Co-operative Director annually by October first, such statistics
17 and records by which to establish a contract and budget; the State
18 Director shall provide summaries of such statistics and records
19 and a proposed contract and budget to the county commission
20 annually by December thirty-first. Hampshire county shall main-
21 tain at least the same or comparable level of Co-operative Exten-
22 sion services as were available in fiscal year nineteen hundred and
23 ninety or proportionally reduced services in the event the deeds
24 excise tax is reduced by the commonwealth, and in no event to
25 exceed in cost the Regional Services Fund, the money received by
26 such Fund. Co-operative Extension shall continue to be operated
27 in accordance with the provisions of section forty to forty-five,
28 inclusive, of chapter one hundred twenty-eight.

29 Other services to be funded from the Regional Services Fund
30 will be those benefiting at least two municipalities as approved by
31 governing body of said county and a committee established by
32 such body which has at least one representative of each munici-
33 pality of the county, which representative is elected by the voters
34 to act on county matters. If the governing body is so constituted, a
35 separate committee is not required.

36 The registrar of deeds of Hampshire county shall make all pay-
37 ments required by section three which are required to be made
38 prior to the date of the establishment of the Regional Services
39 Fund by the county. All stamps unsold as of the date of the estab-
40 lishment of such fund shall be returned to the commissioner who
41 shall return to the county the sums paid therefor.