

By Mr. Rosenberg, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 1070) of Stanley C. Rosenberg for legislation to provide for the establishment of a program within the Executive Office of Communities and Development to rehabilitate existing town and city halls currently used for local government purposes. Local Affairs.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE REHABILITATION OF EXISTING TOWN HALLS IN THE COMMONWEALTH.

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. There is hereby established a program throughout
2 the Commonwealth, within the executive office of communities and
3 development, to rehabilitate existing town and city halls currently
4 used for local government purposes. Said program shall be adminis-
5 tered by the executive office of communities and development as
6 established under chapter twenty-three B of the General Laws.

7 The sum set forth in section two, inclusive of this act, is hereby
8 made available, subject to the provisions of law regulating the dis-
9 bursement of public funds and approval thereof.

1 SECTION 2. For the purposes of implementing section one,
2 there is hereby appropriated seven and one half million dollars for
3 matching state competitive grants which shall include administrative
4 costs incurred by said executive office of communities and develop-
5 ment and the Massachusetts historic commission. Said executive
6 office of communities and development shall not allocate more than
7 two hundred and fifty thousand dollars for any given project pro-
8 posed by a municipality. A community recipient of such grant shall
9 provide matching funds in an amount no less than twenty-five per-
10 cent of the project cost.

1 SECTION 3. In the awarding of such grants, priority shall be
2 given to communities on the basis of: (1) fiscal need; (2) grant appli-
3 cations representing the highest percentage total renovation; and (3)
4 the cultural and historical significance of the existing structure.

5 The criteria for the awarding of such grants shall be established
6 by said executive office of communities and development in consul-
7 tation with said Massachusetts historic commission.

8 Final selection of grant recipients shall be made by said executive
9 office of communities and development with consideration given to
10 the recommendation of the Massachusetts historic commission.

1 SECTION 4. No community shall be eligible for any monies
2 appropriated in section two unless said community has fully com-
3 plied with Executive Order 215.

1 SECTION 5. There shall be a pre-application process from which
2 selections shall be made for final applicants. Pre-application proce-
3 dures and criteria shall be established by said executive office of
4 communities and development in consultation with the said
5 Massachusetts historic commission. Said commission shall provide
6 to applicants, in fiscal need and with a town or city hall eligible for
7 nomination of the National Register of Historical Places, technical
8 assistance in the preparation of design plans for the final applica-
9 tion procedure.

1 SECTION 6. The executive office of communities and develop-
2 ment and the Massachusetts historic commission shall have final
3 approval of all specifications and design plans for town or city halls
4 eligible for nomination to the National Register of Historical Places.
5 Final approval of all specifications and design plans for town or city
6 halls not eligible for such nomination shall be made only by said
7 executive office of communities and development.

1 SECTION 7. The Massachusetts historic commission is hereby
2 authorized and directed to conduct a survey and inventory of city
3 and town halls in the commonwealth and maintain a record of the
4 same for use in carrying out the provisions of this act.