By Mr. Berry, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 964) of Frederick E. Berry for legislation to establish a special commission to examine the delivery of local governmental services in the Greater Essex area. Local Affairs.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

AN ACT RELATIVE TO REGIONALIZATION IN THE SECOND ESSEX DISTRICT.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1 Notwithstanding provisions of any general of special law to the
2 contrary, there is hereby established a special commission con-
3 sisting of the chief executive officers or their designees of the
4 municipalities of Peabody, Salem, Beverly and Danvers, the exec-
5 utive director of the Metropolitan Area Planning Council and two
6 persons to be appointed by the governor from a list of candidates
7 recommended by the Massachusetts Municipal Association, each
8 of whom shall reside in one of the four named municipalities in
9 Essex County. As used in the section, "Greater Essex area" shall
10 mean the aforementioned municipalities.

11 The commission shall examine the delivery of local govern-
12 mental services in the Greater Essex area and make recommenda-
13 tions for intermunicipal cooperative opportunities to increase the
14 efficiency, effectiveness and quality of such services, and the
15 responsiveness of government to the public. The commission is
16 authorized to explore avenues including, but not limited to,
17 regionalization, improved coordination of local government serv-
18 ices, joint or cooperative agreements and the establishment of
19 urban service districts in the Greater Essex area.

20 The commission may conduct public hearings and meetings,
21 may travel within the United States and may request such other
22 data, cooperation and reasonable assistance from any official,
23 officer, department, division, board, bureau, commission or

24 agency of the commonwealth or any municipal or other public
25 corporation of the commonwealth. The members of the commis-
26 sion shall serve without compensation but shall be reimbursed,
27 subject to appropriation, for their expenses actually and neces-
28 sarily incurred in the discharge of their official duties as members
29 of the commission. The commission may employ at its pleasure
30 such personnel, including an executive director, as it deems neces-
31 sary for the performance of its functions.

32   Within one year subsequent to passage of this act, the commis-
33 sion shall report its findings to the general court together with its
34 recommendations regarding regionalization, joint or cooperative
35 agreements, and improved coordination of local government serv-
36 ices in the Greater Essex area by filing the same with the clerk of
37 the senate and the clerk of the house of representatives. The final
38 report of the commission shall contain such recommendations as
39 the commission deems necessary or desirable to promote and
40 facilitate regional delivery of governmental services, to aid in col-
41 laborative efforts, and the restructure of government entities or
42 functions including but not limited to (a) the performance of one
43 or more functions on a joint, cooperative or contractual basis by
44 two or more cities, towns or urban service districts in the Greater
45 Essex area; (b) the transfer of functions between or among gov-
46 ernmental entities in the Greater Essex area; and (c) intermunic-
47 ipal cooperation in the delivery of services. The final report of the
48 commission shall be filed with the governor, the clerks of the
49 senate and the house of representatives and the boards of
50 selectmen and city councils of the municipalities within the
51 Greater Essex area and shall make recommendations for any such
52 actions which the commission concludes should be undertaken by
53 state legislation or by any act of the governor or any department
54 or agency of the commonwealth to accomplish the recommenda-
55 tions of the commission.