

By Mr. Pacheco, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 1201) of Marc R. Pacheco, Andrea F. Nuciforo, Jr., Susan C. Tucker, John W. Scibak and other members of the General Court for legislation relative to the creation of technical assistance centers. Municipalities and Regional Government.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand and Five.

AN ACT RELATIVE TO THE CREATION OF TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE CENTERS.

*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 40B of the General Laws, as appearing in the 1998  
2 Official Edition, is hereby amended by adding at the end thereof  
3 the following section:—  
4 Section 30. There shall be established within each regional  
5 planning district created under this chapter or by special act a  
6 technical assistance center for the delivery of coordinated, com-  
7 prehensive, and continuing technical services to and among local  
8 governments. Technical assistance services may be provided in  
9 any subject area within the capability of each technical assistance  
10 center that improves local government capacity, efficiency, knowl-  
11 edge and ability to respond to issues, opportunities, laws and  
12 requirements including but not limited to: development of smart  
13 growth or sustainable development standards and ordinances;  
14 required municipal asset inventory and management; communica-  
15 tion systems including broadband, wireless and related facilities;  
16 emergency and incident response systems; electronic government  
17 opportunities; remote image and data collection; digital data man-  
18 agement and archiving; geographic information systems; geo-  
19 location of infrastructure; internet and internet-related  
20 technologies; data sharing and regional backup; computer system  
21 evaluation and networking; intelligent transportation systems; sta-  
22 tistical trends and modeling; digital recordation of accidents, fires

23 and crime; technical specifications relating to management of the  
24 sanitary code, water supplies, air quality, storm water and natural  
25 resource area.

26 Said regional planning districts shall annually consult with each  
27 member city and town to ensure locally needed technical assis-  
28 tance services that (i) aid communities in evaluating new tech-  
29 nologies, equipment and systems; (ii) aid communities in  
30 improving the efficiency of local government; (iii) reduce costs  
31 incurred by local governments for performing duties required  
32 thereof; (iv) build capacity and provide needed skills; (v) aid com-  
33 munities in meeting new state or federal regulations or require-  
34 ments; (vi) provide specific services or initiate demonstration  
35 projects; (vii) facilitate sharing of information or best practices  
36 among and between communities; (viii) facilitate inter-municipal  
37 cooperation and/or cost sharing; (ix) provide training and skill  
38 development of community employees; (x) aid in improvement of  
39 local standards, procedures and regulations, and (xi) promote  
40 smart growth zoning, regulations, or standards. Said regional  
41 planning districts shall coordinate and focus their programs to  
42 augment the services of the local technical assistance centers. A  
43 core program of with individual communities technical services  
44 shall be maintained in the fields of management and data, envi-  
45 ronment, transportation and community development. Other fields  
46 may be covered as appropriate and resources allow. Agencies of  
47 the commonwealth initiating or following through on programs or  
48 regulations requiring outreach and/or technical assistance shall  
49 first consider utilizing the local technical assistance centers while  
50 seeking the services previously enumerated and may enter directly  
51 into contracts with the regional planning agencies or their tech-  
52 nical assistance centers as they would with any city or town. This  
53 provision shall not limit the ability of state agencies to work  
54 directly with municipalities.