

By Mr. Minahan of Wakefield, petition of Alfred A. Minahan, Jr., John G. King and another that cities and towns be authorized to establish commissions designed to solve problems of the handicapped. Local Affairs.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Eighty-One.

AN ACT ESTABLISHING MUNICIPAL HANDICAPPED COMMISSIONS.

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 40 of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting
2 after section 8H, the following section:—

3 *Section 8I.* Handicapped Commissions; Establishment, Pow-
4 ers, Duties, etc. A city or town will accept this section and will
5 establish a handicapped commission, hereinafter called the com-
6 mission, for the purpose of coordinating or carrying out programs
7 designed to meet the problems of the handicapped in coordination
8 with programs of the Office of Handicapped Affairs and the Mas-
9 sachusetts Rehabilitation Commission. Said commission shall re-
10 search local problems facing the handicapped and shall coordinate
11 the activities of other local groups organized for similar purposes,
12 and may advertise, prepare, print, and distribute books, maps,
13 charts, plans and pamphlets necessary for its work. The commis-
14 sion shall keep accurate records of its meetings and actions and
15 shall file an annual report which shall be printed in the city or town
16 annual report.

17 *Section 8J.* The Commission shall consist of *not more than*
18 *seven members.* In cities, the members shall be appointed by the
19 mayor, subject to the provisions of the city charter except that in
20 cities having or operating under a Plan D or Plan E form of city
21 charter, said appointments shall be by the city manager, subject to
22 the provisions of the charter; and in towns they shall be appointed

23 by the selectmen, except towns having a manager form of govern-
24 ment, in which towns appointments shall be made by the town
25 manager, subject to the approval of the selectmen.

26 *Section 8K.* A majority of the commission members must con-
27 sist of handicapped persons and/or one of these members may be a
28 member of the immediate family of such person.

29 *Section 8L.* The terms of the first members of the commission
30 shall be for one, two or three years, and so arranged that the term of
31 one of the members expires each year, and their successors shall be
32 appointed for terms of three years each. Any member of the
33 commission so appointed may, after a public hearing, if requested,
34 be removed for cause by the appointing authority. A vacancy
35 occurring otherwise than by expiration of a term shall be filed for
36 the unexpired term in the same manner as an original appointment.

37 *Section 8M.* The chairman of the commission shall be chosen
38 by a majority vote of the commission members.

39 *Section 8N.* Said commission may receive gifts of property,
40 both real and personal, in the name of the city or town, subject to
41 the approval of the city council in a city or the selectmen in a town,
42 such gifts to be managed and controlled by the commission for the
43 purposes of this section.

44 *Section 8O.* One member of said commission shall be either an
45 elected or appointed municipal official.

46 *Section 8P.* The Commission shall meet at least six times a year.