

By Mr. DiMasi of Boston, petition of Salvatore F. DiMasi and Paul C. Demakis (with the approval of the mayor and city council) relative to further defining the powers and duties of the Beacon Hill Architectural Commission in the city of Boston. Local Affairs. [Local Approval Received.]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

AN ACT DEFINING THE POWERS AND DUTIES OF THE BEACON HILL ARCHITECTURAL COMMISSION IN BOSTON.

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

1 *Findings and Purpose.* — The purpose of this act is to redefine
2 the powers and duties of the Beacon Hill Architectural Commis-
3 sion. Chapter 616 of the acts of 1955, as amended, created the
4 Commission and defines the powers and duties of the Commis-
5 sion. Chapter 616 states that its purpose is “to promote the educa-
6 tional, cultural, economic and general welfare of the public
7 through the preservation of the historic Beacon Hill District, and
8 to maintain said district as a landmark in the history of architec-
9 ture and as a tangible reminder of old Boston as it existed in the
10 early days of the commonwealth.” Chapter 616 charged the
11 Beacon Hill Architectural Commission with said mission. The
12 powers of the Commission are limited through an exemption con-
13 tained in Section 1C of Chapter 616 that reads “Nothing in this act
14 shall apply to the construction, repair, alteration, demolition or
15 reconstruction of any building by Suffolk University on Hancock,
16 Derne or Temple streets.” Section 1C was inserted by Section 1 of
17 Chapter 622 of the Acts of 1963”. Time has shown that such an
18 exemption shirks the power of the Commission and is contrary to
19 the purpose of the original legislation. Such an exemption does
20 not afford equality under the law.

- 21 *Powers and Duties of the Beacon Hill Architectural Commis-*
22 *sion.* — Chapter 616 of the acts of 1955 is hereby amended by
23 striking the second paragraph of Section 1c in its entirety.
24 *Effective Date.* — This act shall take effect upon passage.