

By Mr. Honan of Boston, petition of Kevin G. Honan for an investigation and study (including members of the General Court) relative to regional and local planning in the Commonwealth. Community Development and Small Business.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand and Five.

AN ACT FURTHERING REGIONAL AND LOCAL PLANNING.

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

1 The department of housing and community development shall
2 convene a task force to review and make recommendations to fur-
3 ther regional and local planning in the commonwealth. The task
4 force shall study (1) the current status of master plans in cities and
5 towns adopted or to be adopted as required by section eighty-one
6 D of chapter 41 (2) the extent that such plans consider the impacts
7 of growth and development on adjacent communities (3) whether
8 such plans incorporate techniques to maximize existing infrastruc-
9 ture, provide for mixed-use development, promote the use of
10 higher residential densities to create more affordable housing and
11 preserve open space (4) methodologies to encourage community
12 planning, including technical support and financial assistance
13 from the commonwealth (5) the appropriateness and feasibility of
14 mandating that local zoning ordinances and by-laws not be incon-
15 sistent with a city or town's master plan and (6) any other issue
16 the task force deems relevant to promoting more effective land
17 use planning by cities and towns.

18 The task force shall include one representative of each of the
19 following offices or organizations: the department of housing and
20 community development, who shall serve as the chairman; the
21 executive office of administration and finance; the executive
22 office of environmental affairs; the executive office of transporta-
23 tion and construction; the Massachusetts Municipal Association;

24 the Massachusetts Federation of Planning and Appeals Boards;
25 the Massachusetts Smart Growth Alliance; the Metropolitan Area
26 Planning Council; the Pioneer Valley Regional Planning Agency;
27 the Southeastern Massachusetts Regional Planning Agency; the
28 National Association of Industrial and Office Properties; the
29 Home Builders Association of Massachusetts; the Massachusetts
30 Association of Realtors; the Greater Boston Real Estate Board;
31 the Citizens' Housing and Planning Agency; the Massachusetts
32 Business Roundtable; the Associated Industries of Massachusetts;
33 and the South Shore Chamber of Commerce. The task force shall
34 also include the house and senate chairmen of the joint commit-
35 tees on housing and urban development and local affairs and
36 regional government.

37 The task force shall submit its report and recommendations to
38 the clerk of the house of representatives no later than January 1,
39 2006.