

Accompanying the eighth recommendation of the Department of Housing and Community Development (House, No. 123). Housing and Urban Development.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

AN ACT RELATIVE TO THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT.

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 23B of the General Laws, as appearing in the 1990
2 Official Edition, is hereby amended by adding after section 28 the
3 following new section: —

4 Section 29. As used in this section, the following words, unless
5 the context requires otherwise, shall have the following
6 meaning:—

7 “Community development block grant,” funds designated to
8 promote the development of viable urban communities within the
9 commonwealth, distributed by the federal government to the com-
10 monwealth pursuant to section 300, et. seq., of the federal
11 Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1981, or its successor.

12 “Program,” any program administered by the department pur-
13 suant to section 105(a) (17) of the Housing and Community
14 Development Act of 1974 (42 U.S.C. 5305(a) (17)) as amended
15 from time to time, in which loans are made to private, for-profit
16 entities through local communities with community development
17 block grant funds.

18 Any documentary materials, data or conversations made or
19 received by any employee of the department, any employee or
20 official of a city or town, or any member of any advisory com-
21 mittee created by the department to make recommendations con-
22 cerning the use of program funds, including materials, data or
23 conversations made or received prior to the effective date of this
24 section, and consisting of, or to the extent that such materials,
25 data or conversations consist of, trade secrets or commercial or

26 financial information regarding the operation of any business con-
27 ducted by an applicant for, or a recipient of, assistance which the
28 program is empowered to render, or regarding the competitive
29 position of such applicant or recipient in a particular field of
30 endeavor, shall not be deemed public records of the program and
31 specifically shall not be subject to the provisions of section two of
32 chapter sixty-six. Any discussion or consideration of such trade
33 secrets or commercial or financial information may be held by any
34 such advisory committee in executive session closed to the public,
35 notwithstanding the provisions of section eleven A½ or chapter
36 thirty A.