

By Mr. Hermann of North Andover, petition of Joseph N. Hermann and another that provision be made for financial assistance for cities and towns for park and recreation purposes. Natural Resources and Agriculture.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Eighty.

AN ACT PROVIDING ASSISTANCE TO CERTAIN CITIES AND TOWNS FOR PARK AND RECREATION PURPOSES.

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

1 SECTION 1. Chapter 132A of the General Laws is hereby
2 amended by inserting after Section 11D the following new sec-
3 tion:—

4 *Section 11E.* The Secretary of Environmental Affairs shall es-
5 tablish a program to assist all cities in the Commonwealth and all
6 towns with a population in excess of thirty-five thousand inhabit-
7 ants, which have established park or recreation commissions and
8 conservation commissions under Section 8C of Chapter Forty of
9 the General Laws, in acquiring, developing or renovating lands for
10 municipal parks and recreation purposes. The Secretary may, from
11 funds appropriated, reimburse any such city or town for money
12 expended by it in acquiring any such land. Such acquisition reim-
13 bursement shall be limited to 90 percent of such money expended.
14 The Secretary may also, from funds appropriated, reimburse any
15 such city or town for money expended by it in developing new
16 outdoor recreation facilities on previously acquired land or reno-
17 vating such existing facilities. Such development or renovation
18 reimbursement shall be limited to 35 percent of such money ex-
19 pended when the project is, at the same time, receiving assistance
20 under Title X of the National Parks and Recreation Act of 1978
21 (P.L. 95-625) and to 50 per cent when the project is, at the same
22 time, receiving assistance under the Land and Water Conservation
23 Fund Act of 1965 (P.L. 88-578). No reimbursement of any kind

24 shall be made under this section unless an application, setting forth
25 such plans and information as the Secretary may require has been
26 filed by the city or town and has been approved by the Secretary;
27 until such city or town has appropriated, transferred from availa-
28 ble funds, or has voted to expend from its conservation fund, under
29 clause (51) of section five of chapter forty of the General Laws, an
30 amount equal to the total cost of the project; and until the project
31 has been completed to the satisfaction of the secretary, in accord-
32 ance with the approved plans. Any reimbursement received by a
33 city or town under this section shall be applied to the payment of
34 indebtedness, if any, incurred in such acquisition, development or
35 renovation. The director of conservation services, subject to the
36 approval of the secretary, shall establish rules and regulations for
37 the management of their program. This section shall not apply to
38 lands already acquired under section 11 of this chapter nor shall a
39 project receive reimbursement under this section if reimbursement
40 for the project is also being sought under section 11.

1 SECTION 2. Chapter nine hundred and thirty-three of the Acts
2 of nineteen hundred and seventy-seven is hereby repealed.