

By Mr. Harrington of Newton, petition of Peter F. Harrington relative to individual and family assistance for disaster victims through state and federal assistance agreements. Federal Financial Assistance.

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Seventy-Six.

AN ACT RELATIVE TO INDIVIDUAL AND FAMILY ASSISTANCE FOR DISASTER VICTIMS.

*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. Whenever the President, at the request of the  
2 Governor, has declared a major disaster to exist in this State, the  
3 Governor is authorized:

4 (1) Upon his determination that assistance under the Disaster  
5 Relief Act of 1974 and from other means is insufficient to meet  
6 the disaster-related necessary expenses or serious needs of  
7 individuals or families adversely affected by a major disaster, to  
8 accept a grant from the federal government for the purpose of  
9 meeting such expenses or needs of disaster victims, subject to  
10 such terms and conditions as may be imposed upon the grant.

11 (2) To enter into an agreement with the federal government, or  
12 any officer or agency thereof, pledging the State to participate in  
13 the funding of the assistance authorized in subsection (1), in an  
14 amount not to exceed 25 percent thereof and, if state funds are  
15 not otherwise available to the Governor, to accept an advance of  
16 the state share from the federal government to be repaid when the  
17 State is able to do so.

1 SECTION 2. Notwithstanding any other provision of law or  
2 regulation, the Governor is authorized to make grants to meet  
3 disaster-related necessary expenses or serious needs of individuals  
4 or families adversely affected by a major disaster. Any such grant  
5 shall not exceed \$5,000 in the aggregate to an individual or family  
6 in any single major disaster declared by the President.

1 SECTION 3. The Governor may make such regulations as are  
2 necessary for carrying out the purposes of this act.

1 SECTION 4. Any person who fraudulently or willfully makes  
2 a misstatement of fact in connection with an application for  
3 assistance under this act shall, upon conviction of each offense, be  
4 subject to a fine of not more than \$5,000, or imprisonment for not  
5 more than one year, or both.