

By Mr. Costello, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 846) of Nicholas J. Costello and Barbara Hildt for legislation to establish a housing court department to serve the cities and towns of the Merrimack Valley. The Judiciary.

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## The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

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AN ACT ESTABLISHING A HOUSING COURT DEPARTMENT TO SERVE THE CITIES AND TOWNS OF THE MERRIMACK VALLEY.

*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. Section 1 of chapter 185C of the General Laws, as  
2 amended by section 1 of chapter 575 of the acts of 1983, is hereby  
3 further amended by striking out the first sentence and inser-  
4 ting in place thereof the following sentence: —

5 The housing court department established under section one  
6 of chapter two hundred and eleven B shall be composed of a  
7 division for Hampden county, a division for Worcester county,  
8 a division for the city of Boston, and a division of the Merrimack  
9 Valley. The division for the Merrimack Valley shall include the  
10 cities of Lawrence, Lowell, Newburyport and Haverhill, and  
11 the towns of Billerica, Andover, Tewksbury, Amesbury,  
12 Groveland, Merrimac, Methuen, North Andover, Salisbury,  
13 West Newbury, Dracut, Dunstable, Groton, Pepperell, Shirley,  
14 Tyngsborough, Westford and Chelmsford.

1 SECTION 2. Section 3 of said chapter 185C, as most recently  
2 amended by section 2 of chapter 575 of the acts of 1983, is hereby  
3 further amended by inserting after the words "arising in the  
4 city of Boston in the case of that division," the words "in the  
5 cities and towns of the Merrimack Valley in the case of that  
6 division," and by inserting after the words, "in the city of  
7 Boston, in the case of that division," the words: — "in the cities  
8 and towns of the Merrimack Valley, in the case of that division,".

1 SECTION 3. Section 4 of said chapter 185C, as most recently  
2 amended by section 3 of chapter 575 of the acts of 1983, is hereby  
3 further amended by inserting at the end thereof the following  
4 paragraph: —

5 The division of the housing court department for the cities  
6 and towns of the Merrimack Valley shall hold its sittings in the  
7 courthouse facilities located in the city of Lawrence and at  
8 regular and frequent intervals at the courthouse facilities in  
9 the cities of Lowell and Haverhill. The court, with the consent  
10 of the chief administrative justice, shall also sit in such other  
11 courthouse facilities as the administrative justice of the hous-  
12 ing court department may deem to be expedient or convenient.

1 SECTION 4. Section 8 of said chapter 185C, as amended by sec-  
2 tion 4 of chapter 575 of the acts of 1983, is hereby further amend-  
3 ed by striking out the first sentence and inserting in place  
4 thereof the following sentence: —

5 There shall be one justice appointed for the Hampden coun-  
6 ty division, one justice appointed for the Worcester county divi-  
7 sion, one justice appointed for the Merrimack Valley division  
8 and two justices appointed for the city of Boston division of the  
9 housing court department.

1 SECTION 5. The last sentence of section 127G of chapter 111  
2 of the General Laws, as most recently amended by section 5  
3 of chapter 575 of the acts of 1983, is hereby further amended  
4 by inserting after the word "Hampden", the words: — in the  
5 housing court of the cities and towns of the Merrimack Valley,.

1 SECTION 6. Section 86A of chapter 223 of the General Laws,  
2 as most recently amended by section 6 of chapter 575 of the acts  
3 of 1983, is hereby further amended by inserting after the word,  
4 "Hampden", the words: — , in the housing court of the cities  
5 and towns of the Merrimack Valley,.

1 SECTION 7. The first sentence of section 6 of chapter 224 of  
2 the General Laws, as most recently amended by section 7 of  
3 chapter 575 of the acts of 1983, is hereby further amended by  
4 inserting after the word, "Hampden", the words: — , in the  
5 housing court of the cities and towns of the Merrimack Valley,.

1 SECTION 8. Section 111 of chapter 231 of the General Laws,  
2 as most recently amended by section 8 of chapter 575 of the acts  
3 of 1983, is hereby further amended by inserting after the word,  
4 "Hampden", the words: — the housing court of the cities and  
5 towns of the Merrimack Valley,.

1 SECTION 9. Section 113 of said chapter 231 as most recently  
2 amended by section 9 of chapter 575 of the acts of 1983, is hereby  
3 further amended by inserting after the words "Hampden", the  
4 words: , the housing court of the cities and towns of the Mer-  
5 rimack Valley,.

1 SECTION 10. Section 8 of said chapter 261 of the General  
2 Laws, as most recently amended by section 10 of chapter 575  
3 of the acts of 1983, is hereby further amended by inserting after  
4 the word "Hampden", the words: — , in the housing court of  
5 the cities and towns of the Merrimack Valley,.

1 SECTION 11. Section 4 of chapter 263 of the General Laws, as  
2 most recently amended by section 11 of chapter 575 of the acts  
3 of 1983, is hereby further amended by inserting after the word  
4 "Hampden", the words: — , the housing court of the cities and  
5 towns of the Merrimack Valley,.

1 SECTION 12. Section 8A of chapter 263, as most recently  
2 amended by section 12 of chapter 575 of the acts of 1983, is  
3 hereby amended by inserting after the word, "Hampden", in  
4 both places where it appears in the section, the words: — , the  
5 housing court of the cities and towns of the Merrimack Valley,.

