HOUSE . . . . . No. 3823

By Mr. King of Boston, petition of Melvin H. King and Doris Bunte to provide full employment for youth in the Commonwealth. Commerce and Labor.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

AN ACT TO PROVIDE FULL EMPLOYMENT FOR YOUTH IN THE COMMONWEALTH.

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

SECTION 1. Declaration of purpose. The General Court of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts finds that presently, Massachusetts has the highest unemployment rate of any state in the continental United States. The youth (under age 25) are the hardest hit. The official unemployment rate among youth under 25 is 30% of the total work force unemployment rate of 18%. It is the purpose of this act to require that the state of Massachusetts commit itself to full employment for youth by providing 90,000 jobs within the next year.

SECTION 2. That these jobs be created in the main through state promoted and financed construction projects which would be socially useful. These would include but not exclusively schools, hospitals, recreation facilities, day care centers, residential housing, mass transit, alternative energy, marine sciences and recycling.

That youth employed on these projects would be trained in the highly skilled long-term occupations associated with the construction and supply industries, thereby creating a stable workforce for society as a whole.

That jobs would also be created in professional and paraprofessional socially useful areas including but not exclusively teachers, teachers-aides, social workers, social worker aides, lab technicians, artists, musicians, writers, etc.

15 "Fair rates of compensation" refers to remuneration at wages
16 reflecting regional levels of compensation, statutory minimum
17 wages, or those wages established by prevailing collective-
18 bargaining agreements, whichever is highest, and under working
19 conditions consistent with trade union or prevailing standards,
20 whichever is higher.

1 SECTION 3. Adequate consideration must be given to such
2 individuals and groups as may face special obstacles in finding and
3 holding useful and rewarding employment and shall provide or
4 have provided through the coordination of existing programs
5 special assistance including but not limited to counseling, training,
6 and, where necessary, transportation and migration assistance.
7 Such individuals and groups shall include those suffering from
8 past or present discrimination or bias on the basis of sex, age, race,
9 color, religion, political belief or national origin, the physically or
10 mentally handicapped, potentially employable recipients of public
11 assistance, the inhabitants of depressed areas, urban and rural,
12 veterans of the Armed Forces, people unemployed because of the
13 relocation, closing or reduced operations in industrial or military
14 facilities.
15 No person in Massachusetts shall on the ground of sex, age,
16 race, color, religion, political belief, or national origin be excluded
17 from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to
18 discrimination under any program or activity funded in whole or in
19 part with funds made available under this Act.
20 Six months maternity leave with no loss of seniority will be
21 guaranteed to women on this program.

1 SECTION 4. That no more than 2% of monies allocated will be
2 used for administrative expense.

1 SECTION 5. The state board overseeing the implementation of
2 the program will represent in composition the people affected by
3 the program and will include representatives of Labor, Civil
4 Rights, Youth and Women's organizations, etc. On the local levels
5 boards will be elected from the community with guaranteed
6 representation to the racial, and ethnic groups in the community in
7 proportion to the degree to which they need the program.

1 SECTION 6. This program shall be funded through a com-
2 bination of the following: a raise in the tax of the assets of stocks
3 and bonds over the amount of $150,000, a raise in the tax of prop-
4 erty assets over the amount of $250,000, a raise in the tax of
5 corporate profits over the amount of $100,000.