

By Mr. Timilty, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 830) of Joseph F. Timilty, Michael LoPresti, Jr., members of the House of Representatives and another for legislation to authorize the Commonwealth to contract with community action agencies for certain services. Housing and Urban Development.

## The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

### AN ACT AUTHORIZING THE COMMONWEALTH TO CONTRACT WITH COMMUNITY ACTION AGENCIES FOR CERTAIN SERVICES.

*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 is hereby amended by  
2 striking out section twenty-four and inserting in place thereof  
3 the following: —

4 *Section 24.* It is the policy of this state to help further the  
5 full economic and social development of each of its citizens  
6 so that they can contribute to the strength of the state as a  
7 whole. The resources of the private sector of the economy in  
8 particular, along with the resources of the public and volun-  
9 tary sectors, should be employed to increase the opportuni-  
10 ties for all people, young and old, minority and non-minority  
11 to develop to their fullest economic and social potential. It is  
12 the purpose of this section to strengthen, supplement and co-  
13 ordinate efforts that further these policies.

14 (a) As used or referred to in this section, the following  
15 words shall, unless the context requires otherwise, have the  
16 following meanings: —

17 "Community action agency," a non-profit agency which  
18 has previously been designated by and authorized to accept  
19 funds from the federal Community Services Administration  
20 for Community Action Agencies under the Economic Oppor-  
21 tunity Act of 1964, or such similar agency as is recognized  
22 as a community action agency by the division for an area  
23 not covered by any other such agency, which maintains a  
24 corporate board structure of up to one-third public officials,

25 one-third private sector volunteers, and one-third demo-  
26 cratically elected/selected representatives of the poor, with  
27 no fewer than 18 members and no greater than 51 members.  
28 The number of such agencies shall not exceed twenty-five.

29 "Division," the division of social and economic opportunity  
30 of the Office of Communities and Development, or any suc-  
31 cessor thereto.

32 (b) The provisions of this section shall be applicable to  
33 the awarding of contracts by the division under the Federal  
34 Community Services Block Grant or its successor. No less  
35 than ninety percent of the total CSBG funds received by the  
36 state shall be contracted directly with community action  
37 agencies. No more than five percent of the total CSBG funds  
38 received by the state shall be allocated to the division for  
39 its administrative expenses. No less than five percent of the  
40 total CSBG funds shall be awarded by the division to innova-  
41 tive statewide programs which a) received financial assist-  
42 ance from the Community Services Administration under  
43 Section 221 or Section 222 (a) (4) of the Economic Oppor-  
44 tunity Act of 1964 in the federal fiscal year 1981, or b) pro-  
45 vide community economic development activities through  
46 community development corporations as defined in Chapter  
47 40F, Section 1. No less than two percent of the total Com-  
48 munity Services Block Grant funds shall be set aside for com-  
49 munity development corporations.

50 The Commonwealth, acting by and through the division  
51 shall enter into a contract with a community action agency  
52 for the provision of services, consistent with the purpose of  
53 this section, which the community action agency agrees to  
54 furnish pursuant to a workplan adopted by the board of such  
55 agency.

56 The Commonwealth acting by and through the division  
57 may, subject to appropriation, provide supplementary funds  
58 to community action agencies for the purposes of this sec-  
59 tion.

60 No political subdivision or group of political subdivisions  
61 shall be served by more than one designated community  
62 action agency. Each community action agency receiving  
63 funds under this section shall report to the Commonwealth  
64 annually, through an independent audit, concerning the use

65 of these funds.

66 Recognition of a community action agency by the division  
67 of social and economic opportunity shall not preclude the  
68 agency for receiving other grants or contracts from federal  
69 or local agencies, private organizations, individuals or state  
70 agencies, including the division of social and economic oppor-  
71 tunity, or its successor thereto, and subject to appropriation  
72 for that purpose the division may also enter into contracts  
73 with community action agencies to provide other services.

