

HOUSE No. 190

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Martin J. Walsh

To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in General Court assembled:

The undersigned legislators and/or citizens respectfully petition for the passage of the accompanying bill:

An Act establishing a state association for settlement houses and neighborhood centers.

PETITION OF:

NAME:

Martin J. Walsh

DISTRICT/ADDRESS:

13th Suffolk

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION
SEE HOUSE, NO. 4025 OF 2007-2008.]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand and Nine

AN ACT ESTABLISHING A STATE ASSOCIATION FOR SETTLEMENT HOUSES AND NEIGHBORHOOD CENTERS.

*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. The Central Court finds that public policy experts and state and local agencies
2 have been searching for a model of service delivery that will insure programmatically effective
3 and cost-effective delivery of services to families and neighborhoods, and that the emerging
4 consensus is that the best models provide comprehensive, coordinated neighborhood-based and
5 family focused services. The General Court further finds that the Commonwealth's existing
6 network of settlement houses can contribute to providing these comprehensive, coordinated
7 neighborhood-based and family focused services in a cost-effective manner, and that the capacity
8 of these settlement houses to provide and enhance these services can be increased if the
9 settlement houses are provided with additional resources to implement greater neighborhood
10 outreach, to direct individuals and family members to appropriate settlement and community-
11 based resources, to monitor the progress of these individuals, and to plan and coordinate intra-
12 agency and community services so that community residents have easy access to a range of
13 services that respond to the varied and often multiple needs of individuals and families

14 It is the express intent of the General Court to increase funds available to settlement houses for
15 the purpose of providing a comprehensive range of services to the residents of the neighborhoods
16 they serve and that the funds provided pursuant to this chapter will be complemented by
17 privately-raised contributions to the settlement houses for the program services funded pursuant

18 to this chapter. The General Court does not intend that these funds be used as a substitute for any
19 fund currently available from federal, state, or local sources for the provision of neighborhood-
20 based service delivery programs provided by settlement houses.

21 Section 2. Definitions. As used in this chapter the following words and terms shall have the
22 following meanings:-

23 “Program Services”, may include but are not limited to, several of the following services:

- 24 (a) Early childhood services, including child care, child development services, early
25 childhood education, early intervention, health information and referral for pre-school
26 children and child welfare services including programs designed to prevent abuse and
27 neglect;
- 28 (b) Youth services, including teen centers and school-age programs which provide
29 recreation, homework assistance, preparation for employment, counseling and meals;
- 30 (c) Education programs, including remedial education, tutoring, homework assistance,
31 General Education Development (GED), family literacy and English language
32 training;
- 33 (d) Family programs, including home management, parent aid, homemaker services, food
34 pantries, parenting skills training, teen parent services and programs for seniors;
- 35 (e) Arts and cultural activities;
- 36 (f) Employment progress, including summer youth employment apprentice programs,
37 job training programs and displaced homemaker programs;
- 38 (g) Case management including family counseling, crisis counseling, group and
39 individual counseling;
- 40 (h) Emergency response systems for crisis situations;

41 “Secretary”, secretary of human service.

42 “Settlement Houses”, an independent , voluntary, not-for-profit organization engaged in
43 community work and social services delivery in a defined neighborhood in a city or town
44 of the Commonwealth which provides comprehensive, coordinated, family-focused,
45 multi-generational human services such as child care, employment training, housing
46 assistance counseling, youth development, educational services senior services, and arts
47 and cultural activities, based on the needs of the neighborhood or neighborhoods served
48 and which:

49 (a) has been incorporated for at least 30 years;
50 (b) is qualified as a tax-exempt organization pursuant to section 501(c)(3) of the Internal
51 Revenue code;
52 (c) provides services to all those who live in the neighborhood or neighborhoods served without
53 regard to race, creed, religious practice, color, sex, age, national origin, economic status,
54 disability or affectional preference;
55 (d) has an independent, autonomous board of directors, which meets at regular intervals, has full
56 authority over the policies and operations of the organization, and the membership of which
57 includes more than fifty percent community residents;
58 (e) employs appropriate staff including a position of chief executive officer;
59 (f) has a budget which is adopted on an annual basis by the board of directors, utilizes an
60 accepted accounting system and has prepared an annual fiscal audit by a certified public
61 accountant not connected with the organization; and
62 (g) can demonstrate that one of its primary purposes is to improve and expand the relationships
63 among groups of different cultural, economic, religious, and social groups in the community
64 through a variety of individual, group, and inter-group activities.

65 Section 3. (1) The Secretary is hereby authorized to issue grants for the purpose of enhancing
66 and coordinating activities and programs, expanding programs to serve more individuals and
67 families, and promoting inter-agency coordination with other neighborhood organizations
68 offering complementary services.

69 (2) Funds awarded to settlement houses pursuant to the provisions of sub-section one of this
70 section shall be used to supplement and not to supplant other federal, state, or local funds.

71 (3) The secretary shall issue requests for applications to all settlement houses in the
72 commonwealth and shall specify that applications include a description of the nature of the
73 services to be provided, a discussion of the relatedness of the services to the purpose of the
74 settlement house as defined in section one of this chapter and an estimate of the number and
75 composition of clients to be served. Such applications may include a discussion of plans to
76 develop or enhance outreach services to individual and families, institute or augment
77 assessments of individual and family needs, coordinate services, develop links with
78 neighborhood organizations, develop employment initiatives, mentoring programs and other
79 cooperative programs with unions, neighborhood businesses, and community corporations, and
80 identify sources of private funding. Such applications shall also include at least the following:

81 (a) appropriate accounting and fiscal control procedures that assure that funds are expended in
82 accordance with this chapter, including the filing of an annual financial statement by each
83 provider; and
84 (b) appropriate written records regarding the number of individuals and families served and the
85 type and extent of services rendered by the settlement house.

86 (4) The secretary shall solicit and select applications for the provision of programs and services
87 funded pursuant to this chapter. It is necessary that settlement houses receiving funding pursuant
88 to this chapter demonstrate a plan to raise one dollar for each two dollars of state grants received.
89 Subsequent year funding may be adjusted to reflect prior years' experience.

90 (5) The secretary may issue a request for applications to the extent funds are available on a multi-
91 year basis.

92 (6) The secretary shall make grants subject to appropriations of up to one hundred thousand
93 dollars to settlement houses following approval of an acceptable plan submitted pursuant to the
94 request for applications.