

HOUSE No. 02323

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Steven Howitt

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 creating a commission to study the effects of unfunded mandates on municipalities.

PETITION OF:

NAME:

DISTRICT/ADDRESS:

Steven Howitt

4th Bristol

Shaunna O'Connell

3rd Bristol

Bradley H. Jones, Jr.

20th Middlesex

HOUSE No. 02323

By Mr. Howitt of Seekonk, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 2323) of Jones and others relative to establishing a special commission to study the effects of unfunded mandates on municipalities Joint Committee on Municipalities and Regional Government.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand Eleven

An Act creating a commission to study the effects of unfunded mandates on municipalities.

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. Chapter 39 of the Massachusetts General Laws, as appearing in the 2008 Official
- 2 Edition, is hereby amended by inserting after Section 24 the following new section: -
- 3 Section 25. There shall be a commission on unfunded mandates on municipalities, hereinafter
- 4 referred to as the commission. The commission shall consist of 7 members: three of whom shall
- 5 be appointed by the governor, one of whom shall be a municipal official, who shall serve as co-
- 6 chair; the director of the division of local mandates, hereinafter referred to as director, who shall
- 7 also serve as co-chair; one member nominated by the Massachusetts Municipal Association; one
- 8 member nominated by the Massachusetts Treasurer's and Collector's Association; and one
- 9 member nominated by the Massachusetts Town Clerk's Association.
- 10 Said members shall serve a term of two year from the date of appointment, unless sooner
- 11 removed by the governor upon the recommendation of the nominating organization after

12 consultation with said director. When a vacancy occurs, a new member representing the same
13 office shall be appointed to fill the remainder of the unexpired term.

14 Members of the commission shall serve without compensation. The commission shall compile a
15 list of unfunded mandates and their costs to municipal government, and shall file this list with
16 the clerks of the senate and the house of representatives together with proposals, if any, to
17 mitigate the effects of such mandates.

18 The commission shall have the following responsibilities:

19 1. to review and analyze all unfunded local mandates from state and federal authorities, and to
20 deliver an economic impact report of such effects on municipalities to the governor, and to the
21 minority and majority leadership of the House and Senate;

22 2. to act as an independent advocate for the interests of local governments in their relations with
23 state and federal governments;

24 3. to promulgate rules and regulations governing its procedures and those of the executive
25 committee; and

26 4. to perform such other like services as the commission shall decide upon.