

HOUSE No. 03066

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

John D. Keenan

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 relative to tourism.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:
<i>John D. Keenan</i>	<i>7th Essex</i>
<i>Ann-Margaret Ferrante</i>	<i>5th Essex</i>
<i>Sarah K. Peake</i>	<i>4th Barnstable</i>
<i>Angelo J. Puppolo, Jr.</i>	<i>12th Hampden</i>

HOUSE No. 03066

By Mr. Keenan of Salem, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 3066) of John D. Keenan and others relative to tourism. Tourism, Arts and Cultural Development.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand Eleven

An Act relative to tourism.

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 23A of the General Laws, as amended by sections 35 to 37, inclusive, of Chapter 240 of
2 the acts of 2010, is hereby amended by striking out section 14, and inserting in place thereof the
3 following section:-

4 An Act Relative to Tourism

5 Section 14. The office of travel and tourism is hereby directed, in accordance with the
6 Massachusetts Tourism Fund, as established in Section 35J, and subject to appropriation, to
7 establish a grant program for financial assistance to regional tourism promotion agencies.

8 Funds shall be granted to agencies listed in section 6 of chapter 636 of the acts of 1964 with the
9 addition of the Bristol County Development Council, Inc., Franklin County Chamber of
10 Commerce, the Greater Boston Convention and Visitors Bureau, Inc., North of Boston Tourist
11 Council, Pioneer Valley Convention and Visitors Bureau, Plymouth County Development

12 Council, Inc., Worcester County Convention and Visitors Bureau, and Northern Middlesex
13 Chamber of Commerce and to any other public or nonprofit agency which has been in operation
14 for two consecutive years prior to application for funds under this section and which spends
15 \$15,000 dollars in its fiscal year on tourism or a public or nonprofit agency which has a total
16 budget larger than the average of Massachusetts tourist promotion agencies as estimated by the
17 executive director of tourism and which spends 25 percent of said budget on tourism.

18

19 Funds shall be used to strengthen efforts of tourism, convention, travel and recreation agencies to
20 attract and service visitors to the commonwealth and to better manage and distribute the influx of
21 said visitors. The amount of funds received by any one agency shall be in accordance with
22 criteria established by the office of travel and tourism that may be based on, but shall not be limited
23 to, the following criteria:

24 (1) geographical size and population served by such agency;

25 (2) amount of matching funds from nongovernmental sources;

26 (3) assurance that the funded proposal will be in addition to the work currently being done by
27 the agency and that the agency will maintain a continued effort of the funded program;

28 (4) demonstrated effectiveness of agency;

29 (5) integration of agency's tourism promotion plans with other private and public agency plans;

30 or. No funds may be spent for travel, entertainment, or purchase of equipment under this
31 section;

32 (6) hotel rooms.

33

34 The office of travel and tourism is hereby authorized to make grants to agencies to assist such
35 agencies in planning and carrying out their promotional programs and projects; provided, that
36 before any such grant may be made:

37 (1) the agency shall have made application to tourism for such grant, and shall have set forth the
38 program proposed to be undertaken for the purpose of encouraging and stimulating tourist,
39 convention, visitor and vacation business. The application shall further state, with evidence
40 satisfactory to the office of travel and tourism, the amount of nongovernmental funds held by or
41 committed or subscribed to the agency for application to the proposals herein described and the
42 amount of the grant for which application is made;

43 (2) the office of travel and tourism, after review of the application, shall be satisfied that the
44 program of the agency appears to be in accord with the purpose of this section, and shall
45 authorize the making of a grant to such agency; and

46 (3) the maximum received by a private nonprofit agency shall be no greater than the amount
47 received by that agency from nongovernmental sources.