

HOUSE No. 3953

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Jack Patrick Lewis

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 adoption of the accompanying bill:

An Act establishing an economic development special revenue account for the town of Ashland.

PETITION OF:

NAME:

Jack Patrick Lewis

DISTRICT/ADDRESS:

7th Middlesex

HOUSE No. 3953

By Mr. Lewis of Framingham, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 3953) of Jack Patrick Lewis (by vote of the town) that the town of Ashland be authorized to establish an economic development special revenue account in said town. Municipalities and Regional Government. [Local Approval Received.]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

**In the One Hundred and Ninety-First General Court
(2019-2020)**

An Act establishing an economic development special revenue account for the town of Ashland.

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. (a) Notwithstanding section 53 of chapter 44 of the General Laws or any
2 other general or special law to the contrary, the town of Ashland shall establish in the town
3 treasury a special revenue account to be known as the Economic Development Special Revenue
4 Fund, into which shall be deposited certain receipts comprised of the total local meals tax
5 received annually by the town under section 2 of chapter 64L of the General Laws, as provided
6 in subsections (b) and (c). The funds shall be used to support economic development activities,
7 operations and administration in the Town of Ashland and in addition but not limited to Chapter
8 420 of the Acts of 2018, The Special Revenue Fund for an Economic Development Funding
9 Program for the Town of Ashland.

10 (b) Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, the amount of the
11 local meals tax based on a rate in excess of 6.25 per cent collected under said section 2 of said
12 chapter 64L by the town for the fiscal year beginning July I, 2019 and each fiscal year thereafter

13 shall be credited to the fund and shall be subject to further appropriation by a majority vote of
14 the town meeting.

15 (c) Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, any interest accruing
16 on any amount on deposit in the fund shall be credited to the General Fund of the town of
17 Ashland.

18 (d) Nothing in this act shall affect amounts distributed in any fiscal year to the town
19 from the Local Aid Fund.

20 (e) If, by a majority vote of the town meeting pursuant to section 4B of chapter 4 of
21 the General Laws, the town revokes its acceptance of the local meals tax rate in excess of 6.25
22 per cent under said section 2 of said chapter 64L, the town shall decide by a 2/3 vote of the town
23 meeting whether the fund shall cease to have effect. If 2/3 of the town meeting votes that the
24 fund shall cease to have effect, all unexpended and uncommitted amounts on deposit in the fund
25 as of the date of the vote to revoke the rate in excess of 6.25 per cent shall be credited to the
26 General Fund of the town on the first day of the calendar quarter following 30 days after the date
27 of the revocatory vote; provided, however, that if 2/3 of the town meeting does not vote that the
28 fund shall cease to have effect, the fund shall continue to have effect and all unexpended and
29 uncommitted amounts on deposit in the fund as of the date of the vote to revoke the rate in
30 excess of 6.25 per cent shall be subject to further appropriation by a majority vote of the town
31 meeting.

32 (f) The town may close the fund by a 2/3 vote of the town meeting. The vote to
33 close the fund shall designate: (i) that the fund shall cease to have effect; (ii) that all
34 unexpended and uncommitted amounts on deposit in the fund as of the date of the vote shall

35 immediately be credited to the General Fund of the town ; and (iii) that the portion of the total
36 local meals tax in excess of 6.25 per cent received annually by the town under said section 2 of
37 said chapter 64L and credited to the fund as set forth in subsections (b) and (c) shall be credited
38 to the General Fund of the town .

39 SECTION 2. That the General Court may make clerical or editorial changes of form only
40 to the bill, unless the Board of Selectmen approve amendments to the bill before enactment by
41 the General Court, and provided further that the Board of Selectmen is hereby authorized to
42 approve amendments which shall be within the scope of the general public objectives of this
43 petition.

44 SECTION 3. This act shall take effect upon its passage.