

# HOUSE . . . . . No. 1945

By Representative Hall of Westford and Senator Panagiotakos, joint petition of Geoffrey D. Hall and Steven C. Panagiotakos relative to the leasing of real property to civic or social organizations by municipalities. Municipalities and Regional Government.

## The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand and Seven.

AN ACT RELATIVE TO THE LEASING OF REAL PROPERTY TO CIVIC OR SOCIAL ORGANIZATIONS BY 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. Section 2 of Chapter 30B of the General Laws, as  
2 found in the 2002 Official Edition, is hereby amended by inserting  
3 after line 24 the following words:—  
4 “Civic group”, an organization dedicated to or encouraging agri-  
5 culture, horticulture, antiquarian, artistic, educational, historical,  
6 musical, parent teachers association, philanthropic, patriotic pur-  
7 poses, literary clubs, youth groups such as boys, girls clubs, boy  
8 scouts or cub scouts, girl scouts or brownies, Four H clubs, or school  
9 boosters clubs.

1 SECTION 2. Section 2 of Chapter 30B of the General Laws, as  
2 found in the 2002 Official Edition, is hereby further amended by  
3 inserting after line 40 the following words:—  
4 “Fraternal organization”, an incorporated society, order or  
5 supreme lodge, without capital stock, conducted solely for the ben-  
6 efit of its members and their beneficiaries, and not for profit, oper-  
7 ated on a lodge system with ritualistic form of work, having a  
8 representative form of government, and which makes provision for  
9 the payment of benefits in accordance with chapter 176 of the  
10 General Laws.

1 SECTION 3. Said Section 2 of Chapter 30B of the General Laws,  
2 as found in the 2002 Official Edition, is further amended by  
3 inserting after line 95 the following words:—

4 “Veterans organizations”, a veterans organization incorporated or  
5 chartered by the congress of the United States.

6 “Youth or adult athletic league”, an organization or league made  
7 up of adults or youth which is locally operated, based or established  
8 and engaging or operating a formal league in conducting competi-  
9 tions in the following sports: baseball, basketball, cycling, figure  
10 skating, gymnastics, hockey, jogging, lacrosse, sailing, skiing,  
11 soccer, softball, swimming, track or volleyball.

1 SECTION 4. Chapter 30B of the General Laws, as found in the  
2 2002 Official Edition, is hereby amended by inserting after section  
3 16 thereof the following new section:—

4 Section 16A. A governmental body may, after receiving approval  
5 by a majority vote of a city council in the case of a city, or after  
6 receiving approval by a majority vote at an annual or special town  
7 meeting in the case of a town, rent for less than fair market value  
8 any municipally-owned real property to a locally based “civic group,  
9 fraternal organization, or veterans organization”, or “youth or adult  
10 athletic league”, as defined by section 1 of this chapter, for an orig-  
11 inal term not to exceed 10 years. Said rental shall not be subject to  
12 the provisions of paragraphs (c), (d), (e), and (f) of section 16 of this  
13 chapter.

14 The original rental term authorized by the first paragraph of this  
15 section may be renewed during the final year of said term for an  
16 additional term not to exceed 10 years by said city or town, but only  
17 after approval for such a renewal has been granted by a majority  
18 vote of the city council taken at a meeting held during the final year  
19 of said original term, or by a majority vote of the town taken at an  
20 annual or special town meeting held for such purpose during the  
21 final year of said original term.

22 In likewise manner, any further renewal of a rental authorized by  
23 the first or second paragraphs by this section shall not exceed a term  
24 of 10 years, nor shall any such renewal be exercised by a city or  
25 town except during the final year of such renewal term, and then  
26 only after approval for such a renewal term has been granted by a  
27 majority vote of city council taken at a meeting held during the final  
28 year of said renewal term, or by a majority vote of the town taken at  
29 an annual or special town meeting held for such purpose during the  
30 final year of said renewal term.