

# HOUSE . . . . . No. 1985

By Mr. Petruccelli of Boston, petition of Anthony Petruccelli and Thomas M. Menino for legislation to abolish the government of Suffolk County. Municipalities and Regional Government.

## The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand and Seven.

AN ACT RELATIVE TO THE ABOLITION OF SUFFOLK COUNTY.

*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 34B of the General Laws, as appearing  
2 in the 2004 Official Edition, is hereby amended by deleting  
3 sections 1 and 2 and inserting in place thereof the following  
4 sections:—  
5 Section 1. The government of each of the following counties, in  
6 this chapter called an “abolished county” is hereby abolished as of  
7 the following date, in this chapter called the “transfer date”, or on  
8 such earlier date 30 days after the commissioner of revenue certi-  
9 fies in writing that the county has failed to make a required pay-  
10 ment on an outstanding bond or note: (a) Middlesex county, as of  
11 July 11, 1997; (b) Hampden and Worcester counties, as of July 1,  
12 1998; (c) Hampshire county, as of January 1, 1999; provided,  
13 however, that all functions, duties and responsibilities for the  
14 operation and management of the jail, house of correction and  
15 registry of deeds of Hampshire county and all duties and responsi-  
16 bilities for operation and management of property occupied pri-  
17 marily by the sheriff, registry of deeds and the trial courts in  
18 Hampshire county are hereby transferred to the commonwealth,  
19 effective September 1, 1998, subject to the provisions of this  
20 chapter; (d) Essex county as of July 1, 1999; (e) Berkshire county  
21 on July 1, 2000, but all functions, duties and responsibilities for  
22 the operation and management of the registries of deeds of Suf-  
23 folk and Berkshire counties and all duties and responsibilities for  
24 the operation and management of property occupied primarily by

25 the registries of deeds in Berkshire and Suffolk counties are  
26 hereby transferred to the commonwealth, effective on July 1,  
27 1999, subject to the provisions of this chapter; and (f) Suffolk  
28 county as of July 1, 2007.

29 Section 2. Notwithstanding the provisions of any general or  
30 special law to the contrary, the government of each abolished  
31 county, except the office of county treasurer and county auditor  
32 for Suffolk county and the office of county treasurer for all other  
33 abolished counties, is hereby abolished as of the transfer date for  
34 all purposes, including, but not limited to, the purposes estab-  
35 lished pursuant to chapters 34, 34A, 35 and 36 or as otherwise  
36 authorized by this chapter. The office of county auditor and  
37 county treasurer for Suffolk county shall expire on December 31,  
38 2008 and the office of county treasurer for all other abolished  
39 counties shall expire on December 31, 2002. Nothing in this  
40 chapter shall affect the existing county boundaries.

1 SECTION 2. Chapter 34B of the General Laws, as so  
2 appearing, is further amended by inserting at the end of section 18  
3 the following:—

4 “Notwithstanding the provisions of this section and of section 8  
5 to the contrary, the employees and retirees and inactives of the  
6 Suffolk county sheriff’s department and its predecessors shall be  
7 transferred to the state retirement system, and said system shall be  
8 responsible for all liability attributable to the service of such  
9 employees, retirees and inactives. The total amount of the  
10 transfer assets for this particular transaction shall be determined  
11 by dividing the state-boston retirement system's total market value  
12 of assets by its total actuarial accrued liability determined under  
13 the entry age normal funding method as of the prior January 1st  
14 and applying the resulting percentage to the actuarial accrued lia-  
15 bility of the Suffolk county sheriff's department and its predeces-  
16 sors' employees and retirees and inactives as calculated on the  
17 same date. This transfer of assets shall relieve the state-boston  
18 retirement system of all liability for the Suffolk county sheriff’s  
19 department and its predecessors’ employees and retirees and inac-  
20 tives.”