

HOUSE No. 1988

By Mr. Puppolo of Springfield, petition of Angelo J. Puppolo, Jr., and others for an investigation by a special commission (including members of the General Court) relative to the reduction of local aid for the cities and towns of the Commonwealth. Municipalities and Regional Government.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PETITION OF:

Angelo J. Puppolo, Jr.
Anthony J. Verga

Carl M. Sciortino, Jr.
Thomas J. Calter

In the Year Two Thousand and Seven.

RESOLVE ESTABLISHING A SPECIAL COMMISSION RELATIVE TO THE EFFECT OF LOCAL AID CUTS.

1 *Resolved*, A special commission is hereby established to inves-
2 tigate and study the effects of local aid cuts by the common-
3 wealth. The investigation and study shall include, but not be
4 limited to, examining the impact of local aid decreases by the
5 state, on a city by city or town by town basis. The investigation
6 and study shall also focus on the disproportionate impact on
7 municipalities resulting from this decrease where the local aid
8 receipts constitute a large percentage of the municipality's total
9 budget. The commission is directed to study the effects of lan-
10 guage that would standardize the meaning of "disproportionate
11 impact" and provide suggested reforms that would allow some
12 flexibility to the municipality when faced with a decrease and in
13 implementing the reduction. The commission shall be appointed
14 by the governor and shall consist of 10 members as follows: the
15 house and senate chairmen of the joint committee on municipali-
16 ties who shall serve as co-chairs of the commission, the house and
17 senate chairmen of the committees on ways and means, or their
18 designees, the speaker of the house of representatives, or his
19 designee, the president of the senate, or his designee, the state
20 auditor, or his designee, the commissioner of the department of
21 revenue, or his designee, a representative of the executive office

22 of administration and finance and a representative of the Massa-
23 chusetts Municipal Association. The commission shall report to
24 the general court the results of its study, together with drafts of
25 legislation necessary to carry such recommendations into effect,
26 by filing the same with the clerk of the house of representatives
27 on or before December 31, 2007.