

HOUSE No. 2379

By Mr. Speranzo of Pittsfield, petition of Christopher N. Speranzo for legislation to establish a permanent disaster relief fund. Public Safety and Homeland Security.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand and Seven.

AN ACT ESTABLISHING A PERMANENT DISASTER RELIEF FUND.

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. There shall be a disaster relief fund established
2 under the control of the Massachusetts Emergency Management
3 Agency which shall have the authority to expend such funds to cer-
4 tain municipalities and eligible private non-profit organizations in
5 areas declared federal disaster areas for the purpose of providing
6 emergency disaster relief; to expend such funds for the purpose of
7 providing emergency disaster relief to victims of the disaster for
8 whom disaster relief provided by the Federal Emergency Manage-
9 ment Agency, the Small Business Administration, or in any other
10 provision of this item is inadequate; provided further, that such
11 funds may be expended for grants to charitable organizations
12 engaged in assisting victims; provided further, that these funds may
13 be made available to the Massachusetts Development Finance
14 Agency, established in chapter 23G of the General Laws, for the pur-
15 pose of providing grants to individuals and businesses located in any
16 county in which a state of emergency has been declared; provided
17 further, that these funds may be made to individuals and businesses
18 to pay a percentage of the total interest portion on loans, calculated
19 over the life of the loans, received from the Small Business Admin-
20 istration due to the emergency disaster relief; provided further, that
21 the percentage shall be determined by the Massachusetts Develop-
22 ment Finance Agency; and provided further, that the percentage
23 shall be uniform for all grant recipients.

1 SECTION 2: The fund shall be not less than the average of dis-
2 aster relief funds expended by the Commonwealth over the previous
3 three fiscal years.