

HOUSE No.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Steven M. Walsh

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 passage of the accompanying bill:

An Act relative to the establishment of cultural districts.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:
Steven M. Walsh	11th Essex
Stanley C. Rosenberg	Hampshire and Franklin
Kevin Aguiar	7th Bristol
Christine E. Canavan	10th Plymouth
Stephen L. DiNatale	3rd Worcester
Ann-Margaret Ferrante	5th Essex
Susan Williams Gifford	2nd Plymouth
Mary E. Grant	6th Essex
Denis E. Guyer	2nd Berkshire
Kate Hogan	3rd Middlesex
John D. Keenan	7th Essex
Kay Khan	11th Middlesex
Timothy Madden	Barnstable, Dukes and Nantucket
Elizabeth A. Malia	11th Suffolk
James J. O'Day	14th Worcester District
Sarah K. Peake	4th Barnstable
William Smitty Pignatelli	4th Berkshire
Angelo J. Puppolo, Jr.	12th Hampden
Robert L. Rice, Jr.	2nd Worcester

Byron Rushing	9th Suffolk
Todd M. Smola	1st Hampden
Robert P. Spellane	13th Worcester
Ellen Story	3rd Hampshire
David B. Sullivan	6th Bristol
David M. Torrisi	14th Essex
Brian P. Wallace	4th Suffolk
Alice K. Wolf	25th Middlesex
Benjamin B. Downing	Berkshire, Hampshire and Franklin
Jennifer L. Flanagan	Worcester and Middlesex
John A. Hart, Jr.	First Suffolk
Richard T. Moore	Worcester and Norfolk
Thomas M. McGee	Third Essex and Middlesex

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand and Nine

AN ACT RELATIVE TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF CULTURAL DISTRICTS.

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 10 of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after section 52 the
2 following section:-

3 Section 52A. The council shall establish criteria and guidelines for state designated cultural
4 districts. A cultural district shall be a well recognized, labeled, mixed-use, compact area of a city or town
5 in which a high concentration of cultural facilities serves as an anchor. The goals of a cultural district
6 shall include attracting artists and cultural enterprises to a community, encouraging business and job
7 development, establishing tourist destinations, preserving and reusing historic buildings, enhancing
8 property values and fostering local cultural development. The Council shall develop a program to prepare
9 a city or town to become home to a state designated cultural district, create an application process and
10 develop qualifying criteria and guidelines. Agencies of the executive branch, constitutional offices and
11 quasi governmental agencies shall identify programs and services that support and enhance the
12 development of cultural districts and assure that they are accessible to such districts.

13 **SECTION 2.** The council shall in cooperation with the executive branch, constitutional offices, quasi
14 governmental agencies and the joint committee on tourism, arts and cultural development identify
15 additional and existing state incentives and resources that will enhance state designated cultural districts
16 and shall reports their findings together with drafts of legislation as may be necessary to carry its
17 recommendations into effect by filing same with the clerk of the house of representatives no later than
18 January 1, 2010.