

# SENATE NO. 153



## **AN ACT** ESTABLISHING THE MASSACHUSETTS CAPITAL PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM

*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. The Secretary of Administration and Finance and the Commissioner of the  
2 Department of Communities and Development are hereby authorized and directed to establish  
3 the Municipal Capital Partnership Program (MCP) subject to the following provisions. The  
4 purpose of said program shall be to provide assistance to municipalities undertaking capital  
5 projects through the use, on a competitive basis, of the capital bonding capabilities of the  
6 Commonwealth.

7 SECTION 2. The Secretary of Administration and Finance, hereinafter referred to as "The  
8 Secretary," and the Commissioner of the Department of Communities and Development,  
9 hereinafter referred to as "The Commissioner," shall develop a system whereby any municipality  
10 of the Commonwealth may submit for consideration in the MCP any capital project which:

11 (a) Exceeds two million dollars in total cost for planning, design and construction.

12 (b) Is a public facility such as a police or fire station or combination thereof, an educational  
13 facility not eligible for the School Building Assistance program authorized by Chapter 645 of the  
14 Acts and Resolves 1948, a water or sewer treatment facility, a road or bridge construction or  
15 improvement project not receiving assistance through Chapter 90 funding, so-called, or any other  
16 bonded indebtedness of the Commonwealth, a library facility not receiving other funding  
17 assistance from the Commonwealth, or any other public project proposed by a municipality which  
18 will not otherwise be in whole or in part funded by the Commonwealth.

19 SECTION 3. The Secretary and the Commissioner shall develop a system for the comprehensive  
20 evaluation of projects submitted for consideration pursuant to Section 2. Said system shall include  
21 objective criteria to provide fair and equal competition among municipalities proposing projects,  
22 which shall include but not be limited to:

23 (a) The amount of overall indebtedness of the proposing municipality.

24 (b) The total amount of other state assistance being received by a municipality from the  
25 Commonwealth.

26 (c) The additional property tax capacity which a proposing municipality has within its levy limit,  
27 including consideration of Proposition 2 ½ overrides, so-called, which the municipality has  
28 adopted.

29 (d) The most recent fiscal year in which other, similar capital project cost assistance was provided  
30 by the Commonwealth to the proposing municipality.

31 (e) The total indebtedness incurred by an applicant municipality in order to comply with state and  
32 federal mandates.

33 (f) Any other relevant criteria which are deemed necessary by the Secretary and the  
34 Commissioner to ensure the equitable treatment of applicant municipalities.

35 SECTION 4. The Commissioner shall undertake a process of review and evaluation of proposed  
36 projects, which shall be required to be submitted on an annual basis consistent with the fiscal year  
37 of the Commonwealth and the capital planning requirements thereof. Said process shall be public  
38 within the meaning of the laws of the Commonwealth and may include, at the discretion of the  
39 Commissioner, public hearings and other means of receiving information relative to proposed  
40 projects.

41 SECTION 5. No application for MCPP assistance shall be accepted by the Commissioner unless  
42 and until it has been approved by a vote of the Council in the case of a city, or town meeting in the  
43 case of a town.

44 SECTION 6. Consistent with the criteria provided in Section 3 above, the Commissioner shall  
45 recommend projects for approval in each fiscal year to the Secretary, and shall recommend for  
46 approval a rate of reimbursement of not less than fifty, nor more than ninety percent of the project  
47 cost as submitted.

48 SECTION 7. The Secretary shall approve for reimbursement those projects which are appropriate  
49 for MCPP assistance subject to any conditions, rules or regulations deemed necessary by the  
50 Secretary in administering said program.

51 SECTION 8. The Secretary and the Commissioner shall have the authority to establish and  
52 promulgate the necessary rules, regulations and procedures to carry out the provisions of this Act.

53 SECTION 9. To meet expenditures necessary in carrying out the provisions of this Act, the State  
54 Treasurer shall, upon the request of the Governor, issue and sell bonds of the Commonwealth, to an  
55 amount specified by the Governor from time to time, not exceeding in the aggregate, the sum of  
56 twenty-five million dollars.

57 SECTION 10. Upon application by a municipality, loans of moneys held in the Municipal Capital  
58 Partnership Program shall be made available and shall provide for the repayment and redeposit of  
59 such allocations and loans in a matter to be prescribed by the Secretary of Administration and  
60 Finance and the Commissioner of the Department of Communities and Development and  
61 calculated to reasonably carry out the provisions of this Act.

62 SECTION 11. The provisions of this Act shall take effect one year following the date of its  
63 passage.

64 SECTION 12. The provisions of this Act shall be severable, so as to permit its implementation  
65 as reasonably practicable should any of its provisions be deemed unlawful.