

HOUSE No. 4493

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

By Mr. Keenan of Salem, for the committee on Tourism, Arts and Cultural Development, on House, Nos. 630, 4013 and 4014, a Bill relative to the establishment and certification of cultural and creative districts (House, No. 4493). February 16, 2010.

An Act relative to the establishment and certification of cultural and creative districts.

FOR THE COMMITTEE:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:
John D. Keenan	7th Essex

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand and Ten

An Act relative to the establishment and certification of cultural and creative 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 53 the
2 following section:-

3 Section 53A. The Massachusetts Cultural Council (“the Council”), shall establish criteria and guidelines
4 for state designated cultural and creative districts. A cultural and creative district shall be a well
5 recognized, labeled, mixed-use, compact area of a city or town in which a high concentration of cultural
6 and creative facilities serves as an anchor. The goals of a cultural and creative district shall include
7 attracting artists and creative enterprises to a community, encouraging business and job development,
8 establishing tourist destinations, preserving and reusing historic buildings, enhancing property values and
9 fostering local cultural and economic development. A city or town may create and designate a cultural
10 and creative district subject to certification by the Council. The Council shall develop a certification
11 program to prepare a city or town to become home to a state designated cultural and creative district by
12 creating an application process and developing qualifying criteria and guidelines. A cultural and creative
13 district certification shall remain in effect for 10 years following the date of certification. Two or more
14 cities or counties may apply jointly for certification of a district that extends across a common boundary.
15 Agencies of the executive branch, constitutional offices and quasi governmental agencies shall identify
16 programs and services that support and enhance the development of cultural and creative districts and
17 assures that they are accessible to such districts.

18 **SECTION 2.** The Council shall in cooperation with the executive branch, constitutional offices, quasi
19 governmental agencies and the Joint Committee on Tourism, Arts and Cultural development identify
20 additional and existing state incentives and resources that will enhance state designated cultural and
21 creative districts and shall report their findings together with drafts of legislation as may be necessary to
22 carry its recommendations into effect by filing same with the clerk of the house of representatives , the
23 clerk of the senate, and the co-chairs of the Joint Committee on Tourism, Arts and Cultural Development
24 no later than December 1, 2010