

HOUSE No. 4493

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand 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
2 section 53 the following section:-

3 Section 53A. The Massachusetts Cultural Council (“the Council”), shall establish criteria
4 and guidelines for state designated cultural and creative districts. A cultural and creative district
5 shall be a well recognized, labeled, mixed-use, compact area of a city or town in which a high
6 concentration of cultural and creative facilities serves as an anchor. The goals of a cultural and
7 creative district shall include attracting artists and creative enterprises to a community,
8 encouraging business and job development, establishing tourist destinations, preserving and
9 reusing historic buildings, enhancing property values and fostering local cultural and economic
10 development. A city or town may create and designate a cultural and creative district subject to
11 certification by the Council. The Council shall develop a certification program to prepare a city
12 or town to become home to a state designated cultural and creative district by creating an
13 application process and developing qualifying criteria and guidelines. A cultural and creative
14 district certification shall remain in effect for 10 years following the date of certification. Two or

15 more cities or counties may apply jointly for certification of a district that extends across a
16 common boundary. Agencies of the executive branch, constitutional offices and quasi
17 governmental agencies shall identify programs and services that support and enhance the
18 development of cultural and creative districts and assures that they are accessible to such
19 districts.

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