

**SENATE . . . . . No. 219**

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**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

PRESENTED BY:

*Jason M. Lewis*

*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 adoption of the accompanying bill:

An Act relative to promoting local economic development.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:
<i>Jason M. Lewis</i>	<i>Fifth Middlesex</i>
<i>James B. Eldridge</i>	<i>Middlesex and Worcester</i>
<i>Ruth B. Balsler</i>	<i>12th Middlesex</i>
<i>James J. O'Day</i>	<i>14th Worcester</i>
<i>Bruce E. Tarr</i>	<i>First Essex and Middlesex</i>
<i>Jonathan Hecht</i>	<i>29th Middlesex</i>
<i>Robert L. Hedlund</i>	<i>Plymouth and Norfolk</i>
<i>David M. Rogers</i>	<i>24th Middlesex</i>

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By Mr. Lewis, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 219) of Jason M. Lewis, James B. Eldridge, Ruth B. Balsler, James J. O'Day and other members of the General Court for legislation to promote local economic development. Economic Development and Emerging Technologies.

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**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

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**In the One Hundred and Eighty-Ninth General Court  
(2015-2016)**  
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An Act relative to promoting local economic development.

*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 23A of the General Laws is hereby amended by adding after  
2 section 64 the following section:-

3 Section 65. (a) The executive office of housing and economic development shall establish  
4 a local economic development assistance program. The purpose of the program shall be to  
5 provide technical assistance and financial assistance, in the form of grants, to cities and towns.

6 (b) To participate in the local economic development assistance program, a city or town,  
7 or two or more cities or towns applying jointly, shall: (1) file an application for technical  
8 assistance with the executive office of housing and economic development in a form and manner  
9 to be prescribed by the office; and (2) complete an economic self-assessment identifying  
10 opportunities for growth. Following completion of the economic self-assessment, the city or  
11 town, or two or more cities or towns applying jointly, shall be deemed eligible to apply for  
12 financial assistance.

13 (c) An eligible city or town, acting by and through its municipal officers or by and  
14 through any agency designated by such municipal officers to act on their behalf, may apply to  
15 the program for a grant in a specific amount to fund a development initiative identified as an  
16 opportunity for growth in the economic self-assessment. Two or more municipalities may apply  
17 jointly, with 1 municipality acting as fiscal agent, or through a regional planning agency acting  
18 as fiscal agent. The grants may be made in addition to other forms of local, state, and federal  
19 assistance.

20 (d) Funding for the local economic development assistance program in any single fiscal  
21 year shall be available subject to appropriation in a total amount of not more than \$10 million, or  
22 through other funds as the governing board of the Massachusetts Development Finance  
23 Authority shall provide.

24 (e) The office shall adopt rules, regulations, and guidelines for the administration and  
25 enforcement of this section, including, but not limited to, establishing applicant criteria,  
26 application forms and procedures, and reporting requirements.

27 (f) The office shall annually, no later than April 1, submit a report to the clerks of the  
28 senate and house of representatives, the joint committee on economic development and emerging  
29 technologies, the joint committee on state administration and regulatory oversight, and the senate  
30 and house committees on ways and means detailing the expenditures and results relative to the  
31 local economic development assistance program.