

**SENATE . . . . . No. 1137**

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**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

PRESENTED BY:

*Anne M. Gobi*

*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 regional stabilization funds.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	
<i>Anne M. Gobi</i>	<i>Worcester, Hampden, Hampshire and Middlesex</i>	
<i>Angelo J. Puppolo, Jr.</i>	<i>12th Hampden</i>	<i>1/24/2017</i>
<i>Richard J. Ross</i>	<i>Norfolk, Bristol and Middlesex</i>	<i>1/24/2017</i>
<i>James B. Eldridge</i>	<i>Middlesex and Worcester</i>	<i>1/30/2017</i>
<i>Todd M. Smola</i>	<i>1st Hampden</i>	<i>2/3/2017</i>
<i>Eric P. Lesser</i>	<i>First Hampden and Hampshire</i>	<i>2/3/2017</i>
<i>Michael O. Moore</i>	<i>Second Worcester</i>	<i>2/8/2017</i>

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By Ms. Gobi, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 1137) of Anne M. Gobi, Angelo J. Puppolo, Jr., Richard J. Ross, James B. Eldridge and other members of the General Court for legislation relative to regional stabilization funds. Municipalities and Regional Government.

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[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION  
SEE SENATE, NO. 1082 OF 2015-2016.]

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**In the One Hundred and Ninetieth General Court  
(2017-2018)**  
\_\_\_\_\_

An Act relative to regional stabilization funds.

*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 71 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2014 Official Edition,  
2 is hereby amended by striking out section 16G1/2, and inserting in place thereof the following  
3 section:-

4           Section 16G1/2. A regional school district may, upon a majority vote of all the members  
5 of the regional district school committee and, with the approval of a majority of the local  
6 appropriating authorities of the member municipalities, establish a stabilization fund and may, in  
7 any year, include in its annual budget for deposit in the stabilization fund an amount not  
8 exceeding five per cent of the aggregate amount apportioned to the member municipalities for  
9 the preceding fiscal year or such larger amount as may be approved by the director of accounts.

10 The regional school district shall notify the member towns that said stabilization account has

11 been established. Each regional school district member town will have 60 days to consider the  
12 establishment of the stabilization fund. In the event that a member town fails to take action  
13 within 60days, that member town shall be deemed to have approved the establishment of said  
14 stabilization fund. The aggregate amount in the fund at any time shall not exceed five per cent of  
15 the combined equalized valuations of the member municipalities. Any interest shall be added to  
16 and become a part of the fund. The annual report submitted to the member municipalities  
17 pursuant to clause (k) of section sixteen shall include a statement of the balance in the  
18 stabilization fund and all additions to and withdrawals from the fund during the period covered  
19 by such report.

20           The treasurer of the regional school district shall be the custodian of such fund and may  
21 deposit or invest the fund in such deposits or investments as are legal for the deposit or  
22 investment of revenue funds of the district or in such securities as are legal for the investment of  
23 funds of savings banks under the laws of the commonwealth.

24           The stabilization fund may be appropriated by vote of two-thirds of all of the members of  
25 the regional district school committee for any purpose for which regional school districts may  
26 borrow money or for such other district purpose as the director of accounts may approve.

27           This section shall also apply to any regional school district established under the  
28 provisions of a special law.