SENATE DOCKET, NO. 191 FILED ON: 1/12/2017

SENATE . . . . . No. 187

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:	
Jason M. Lewis	*Fifth Middlesex*	
Steven Ultrino	*33rd Middlesex*	*2/2/2017*
Jonathan Hecht	*29th Middlesex*	*1/31/2017*
Sheila C. Harrington	*1st Middlesex*	*2/1/2017*
Colleen M. Garry	*36th Middlesex*	*2/2/2017*
Mathew Muratore	*1st Plymouth*	*2/3/2017*
Thomas J. Calter	*12th Plymouth*	*2/3/2017*
Bruce E. Tarr	*First Essex and Middlesex*	*2/15/2017*

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By Mr. Lewis, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 187) of Jason M. Lewis, Steven Ultrino, Jonathan Hecht, Sheila C. Harrington and other members of the General Court for legislation to promote local economic development. Economic Development and Emerging Technologies.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

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:

SECTION 1. Chapter 23A of the General Laws is hereby amended by adding after section 64 the following section:-

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

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

town, or two or more cities or towns applying jointly, shall be deemed eligible to apply for financial assistance.

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

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

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

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