

HOUSE No. 1311

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Harold P. Naughton, Jr.

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 community block grants.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	DATE ADDED:
<i>Harold P. Naughton, Jr.</i>	<i>12th Worcester</i>	<i>1/17/2019</i>

HOUSE No. 1311

By Mr. Naughton of Clinton, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 1311) of Harold P. Naughton, Jr., relative to community block grants. Housing.

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION
SEE HOUSE, NO. 692 OF 2017-2018.]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

**In the One Hundred and Ninety-First General Court
(2019-2020)**

An Act relative to community block grants.

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. The General Court finds and declares that:

2 (a) the purpose of the Community Development Block Grant, also known as CDBG,
3 appropriation is to assist cities and towns of the commonwealth with community projects of high
4 value at the local level;

5 (b) the formula for evaluation and distribution of CDBG funds purposefully ranks
6 communities based significantly upon economic factors and favors cities and towns in need of
7 additional funding for community improvements; and

8 (c) CDBG funds are seldom available to certain communities with high value projects
9 that meet their local needs, the formula for ranking communities shall be amended as provided
10 for in this act.

11 SECTION 2. Chapter 23B of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2012 Official
12 Edition, is hereby amended by adding the following section:-

13 Section 31. (a) Beginning in the year 2018 and continuing every fourth year the process
14 for ranking communities eligible for Community Development Block Grant, hereinafter referred
15 to as CDBG, funding by the department shall only include communities that have been or would
16 have been ranked at or below 16 using the existing evaluation criteria. As used in this section the
17 term Community Development Block Grant shall mean funds designated to promote the
18 development of viable urban communities within the commonwealth and which are distributed
19 by the federal government to the commonwealth pursuant to sections 300, et seq., of the
20 Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1981, or its successor.

21 (b) CDBG funding criteria existing in fiscal year 2016, or as amended thereafter, shall
22 continue to apply for the following consecutive five year period resuming in fiscal year 2019
23 through fiscal year 2023. For 1 year thereafter, in fiscal year 2024, this section shall apply, to
24 again cycle to the traditional practice alternating with the amended practice every sixth year.