

HOUSE No.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Christopher N. Speranzo

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 passage of the accompanying bill:

An Act Establishing a Permanent Disaster Relief Fund.

PETITION OF:

NAME:

Christopher N. Speranzo

DISTRICT/ADDRESS:

3rd Berkshire

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION
SEE HOUSE, NO. 2379 OF 2007-2008.]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand and Nine

AN ACT ESTABLISHING A PERMANENT DISASTER RELIEF FUND.

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. There shall be a disaster relief fund established under the control of the Massachusetts
2 Emergency Management Agency which shall have the authority to expend such funds to certain
3 municipalities and eligible private non-profit organizations in areas declared federal disaster areas for the
4 purpose of providing emergency disaster relief; to expend such funds for the purpose of providing
5 emergency disaster relief to victims of the disaster for whom disaster relief provided by the Federal
6 Emergency Management Agency, the Small Business Administration, or in any other provision of this
7 item is inadequate; provided further, that such funds may be expended for grants to charitable
8 organizations engaged in assisting victims; provided further, that these funds may be made available to
9 the Massachusetts Development Finance Agency, established in chapter 23G of the General Laws, for the
10 purpose of providing grants to individuals and businesses located in any county in which a state of
11 emergency has been declared; provided further, that these funds may be made to individuals and
12 businesses to pay a percentage of the total interest portion on loans, calculated over the life of the loans,
13 received from the Small Business Administration due to the emergency disaster relief; provided further,
14 that the percentage shall be determined by the Massachusetts Development Finance Agency; and
15 provided further, that the percentage shall be uniform for all grant recipients.

16 SECTION 2: The fund shall be not less than the average of disaster relief funds expended by the
17 Commonwealth over the previous three fiscal years.