Massachusetts Legislative History

With Hon. Barbara A. Lenk and Brian Harkins, Esq.

June 29, 2017

Social Law Library

John Adams Courthouse
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Determining legislative intent in Massachusetts can be a difficult task. Few successful bills make it to the Governor’s desk accompanied by detailed reports. When there is a report about the need for the new legislation it is usually appended to the original bill that becomes part of the Legislative Documents series.

**TRACING LEGISLATIVE HISTORY**

1. Find the section of the Massachusetts General Laws that you wish to research.

2. Following that section in the annotated laws (ALM or MGLA) you’ll find historical notes with references to chapters in the Massachusetts Acts & Resolves (cited as “St.”) These citations are to original enactments or amendments to that section over the years.

<table>
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<th>Acts &amp; Resolves of Massachusetts</th>
<th>5th floor States KFM 2425.A213</th>
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<td>Also on microfiche on the 4th Floor</td>
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3. Early Official Codifications & Compilations
   - Colonial Laws of Massachusetts (Cited C.L.)
   - Revised Statutes of 1836 (Cited R.S.)
   - General Statutes of 1860 (Cited G.S.)
   - Public Statutes of 1882 (Cited P.S.)
   - Revised Laws of 1902 (Cited R. L.)
   - General Laws of 1921 (Cited G.L.)
   - General Laws, Tercentenary Edition (1932)

   1st floor Non-core KFM 2430.1672.A2 1887
   Revised Statutes of 1836. KFM 2430.1836.A22 1836
   General Statutes of 1860. KFM 2430.1859.A223 1873
   Public Statutes of 1882. KFM 2430.1881.A22 1882
   Revised Laws of 1902. KFM 2430.1901.A22 1902
   General Laws of 1921. KFM 2430.1921.A22 1921

4. To convert the Chapter number back to the original Bill number you can use the table found at the back of the annual Bulletin of Committee Work. The Bulletin is located at the end of each year’s Legislative Documents, or for the years after 1973. Consult the tables in:

   - Guide to Massachusetts General and Special Acts
     - 1974-1984 MICROFORMS KFM 2441.G85
     - 1985- 2008 5th floor States KFM 2441.G85

5. See the Legislative Documents for the text of bills and possibly some commentary:

   Bill texts for years prior to 1945 are located at the State Library of Massachusetts, State House, 3d floor

   - 1945-1966 5th floor States KFM 2406.M37
   - 1986-2009 5th floor States KFM 2406.M37
   - 2010- malegislature.gov

6. For summaries of legislative proceedings see the Journals of the House and Senate
   - 1715-1779 5th floor State KFM 2418.M36
   - 1867- 5th floor States KFM 2418.M36

7. For reports issued by the General Court on specific topics see

   - Index of Special, Reports Authorized by the General Court 1900-1988
   - with Supplement 1988-1994 5th floor States KFM 2418.5.M37
   - MICROFORMS KFM 2418.5.M37
MORE SOURCES FOR LEGISLATIVE HISTORY

1. The SPONSOR of the bill might provide information about the legislation. For contact information about Massachusetts legislators see:
   The Massachusetts Political Almanac REF 4 JK 3130 .M37

2. The STATE ARCHIVES has “Legislative Packages” for bill introduced since 1775
   220 Morrissey Blvd. Boston 617 727-2816
   Provide the bill number and year.
   Current legislative packages are with the House and Senate Clerk’s office, State House (617) 722-2000

3. For further information regarding debates, proceedings, committee hearings and news release consult the STATE LIBRARY: State House, Room 341 (617) 727-2590

WEB SITES & DATABASES

The Massachusetts General Court offers bill tracking of current legislation through its home page:
http://www.malegislature.gov/

The State Library has old Massachusetts Acts & Resolves in searchable portable document format (pdf) from 1692 through 2008.  Massachusetts Acts & Resolves

The State Library has House and Senate Bills in searchable pdf’s from 1840 through 2008
http://archives.lib.state.ma.us/

MASSTRADE RESEARCH DATABASE. Available for in-library use, includes bill texts and tracking, roll call votes and a wealth of other information about bills and laws since the 1995-1996 legislative session. INSTATRAC is available on all computer terminals at the Library.

State House News Service provides daily and archived coverage of the Massachusetts House and Senate sessions since 1986. Materials include articles, profiles, summaries, forecasts, and background information on virtually every aspect of Massachusetts government, politics and regulatory affairs. State House News Services is available for in-library use.

LLMC-DIGITAL Available for in-library use, includes House and Senate Journals and Debates of the Massachusetts Constitutional Convention of 1917-18.

https://student.nesl.edu/research/Legislative_Council.cfm
People

Find a Legislator

Search for Bills & Laws

Bills & Laws

Events

FY 2017 Budget
| Chapter 117 | AN ACT RELATIVE TO THE CHARTER OF THE TOWN OF HARMCH  
(see House, No. H3708)    Approved by the Governor, June 3, 2016 |
| Chapter 118 | AN ACT ESTABLISHING A SICK LEAVE BANK FOR EVELENA BROWN, AN EMPLOYEE OF THE  
DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES  
(see Senate, No. S2238)    Approved by the Governor, June 3, 2016 |
| Chapter 119 | AN ACT RELATIVE TO SINGING OF WARRANTS FOR PAYMENT IN THE TOWN OF TYNGSBOROUGH  
(see House, No. H3841)    Approved by the Governor, June 3, 2016 |
| Chapter 120 | AN ACT RELATIVE TO THE FORM OF REPRESENTATIVE TOWN GOVERNMENT IN THE TOWN OF  
NORTH ATTLEBOROUGH  
(see House, No. H3553)    Approved by the Governor, June 3, 2016 |
| Chapter 121 | AN ACT TO IMPROVE PUBLIC RECORDS  
(see House, No. H4333)    Approved by the Governor, June 6, 2016 |
| Chapter 122 | AN ACT AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF EASTHAMPTON TO GRANT 8 ADDITIONAL LICENSES FOR THE  
SALE OF ALL ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES TO BE DRUNK ON THE PREMISES  
(see Senate, No. S2284)    Approved by the Governor, June 10, 2016 |
## BILLS

### Most Popular Bills

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Bill No.</th>
<th>Title</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>S.3</td>
<td>An Act making appropriations for the fiscal year 2018 for the maintenance of the departments, boards, commissions, institutions, and certain activities of the Commonwealth, for interest, sinking fund, and serial bond requirements, and for certain permanent improvements</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S.1305</td>
<td>An Act to protect the civil rights and safety of all Massachusetts residents</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S.2074</td>
<td>Report of the Special Commission on Pension Forfeiture</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>H.3600</td>
<td>An Act making appropriations for the fiscal year 2018 for the maintenance of the departments, boards, commissions, institutions, and certain activities of the Commonwealth, for interest, sinking fund, and serial bond requirements, and for certain permanent improvements</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S.291</td>
<td>An Act to prohibit the use of Native American mascots by public schools in the Commonwealth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S.1821</td>
<td>An Act combating climate change</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S.1849</td>
<td>An Act transitioning Massachusetts to 100 percent renewable energy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>H.3454</td>
<td>An Act regulating and insuring short-term rentals</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>H.3601</td>
<td>An Act making appropriations for the fiscal year 2018 for the maintenance of the departments, boards, commissions, institutions, and certain activities of the Commonwealth, for interest, sinking fund, and serial bond requirements, and for certain permanent improvements</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Bill No.        Title
H.143          An Act relative to the digital right to repair

LAWS

☑ General Laws ☑ Session Laws

Most Popular General Laws

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Chapter</th>
<th>Section Name</th>
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<td>MGL c.265 §13</td>
<td>Manslaughter; punishment</td>
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<tr>
<td>MGL c.140 §174F</td>
<td>Confinement of animal in a motor vehicle causing exposure to extreme heat or cold; protection of animal by animal control or law enforcement officer or fire fighter; penalties</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MGL c.119 §58</td>
<td>Adjudication as delinquent child or youthful offender</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MGL c.66 §10</td>
<td>Public inspection and copies of records; presumption; exceptions</td>
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<tr>
<td>MGL c.140 §131</td>
<td>Licenses to carry firearms; conditions and restrictions</td>
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<tr>
<td>MGL c.186 §15B</td>
<td>Entrance of premises prior to termination of lease; payments; receipts; interest; records; security deposits</td>
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<tr>
<td>MGL c.149 §148</td>
<td>Payment of wages; commissions; exemption by contract; persons deemed employers; provision for cashing check or draft; violation of statute</td>
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<tr>
<td>MGL c.265 §13A</td>
<td>Assault or assault and battery; punishment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MGL c.123 §12</td>
<td>Emergency restraint and hospitalization of persons posing risk of serious harm by reason of mental illness</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MGL c.119 §52</td>
<td>Definitions</td>
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Most Popular Session Laws

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Chapter</th>
<th>Chapter Name</th>
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<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>Ch. 334</td>
<td>AN ACT THE REGULATION AND TAXATION OF MARIJUANA ACT</td>
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<td>2016</td>
<td>Ch. 121</td>
<td>AN ACT TO IMPROVE PUBLIC RECORDS.</td>
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BILL S.1305
190th (Current)

AN ACT TO PROTECT THE CIVIL RIGHTS AND SAFETY OF ALL MASSACHUSETTS RESIDENTS

By Mr. Eldridge, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 1305) of James B. Eldridge, Juana Matias, Jack Lewis, Jason M. Lewis and other members of the General Court for legislation to

Bill Information

Presenter:
James B. Eldridge

Status:
Referred to Joint Committee on Public Safety and Homeland Security

Displaying 3 actions for Bill S.1305

<table>
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<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>1/23/2017</td>
<td>Senate</td>
<td>Referred to the committee on Public Safety and Homeland Security</td>
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<tr>
<td>1/23/2017</td>
<td>House</td>
<td>House concurred</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5/16/2017</td>
<td>Joint</td>
<td>Hearing scheduled for 06/09/2017 from 10:00 AM-03:00 PM in A-1 &amp; A-2</td>
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The State Library of Massachusetts

The State Library of Massachusetts supports the research and information needs of government, libraries, and people through innovative services and access to a comprehensive repository of state documents and other historical items.

Government Data & Documents

The State Library has the most complete collection of Massachusetts government documents in existence. The library is also a selective depository of federal government documents, and has an extensive collection of Massachusetts municipal reports.

Legal & Legislative Resources

Contains invaluable resources and information for those interested in researching or learning more about Massachusetts state and Federal law.

Research News & Current Events

Provides links to various newspapers, magazines and journals at the State Library of Massachusetts.

Research State & Local History

Includes historical information for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and its cities and towns. Resources include papers and photos of state political figures, preserved newspapers and maps dating back to the early 1800s and other historical documents.

Massachusetts State Documents Depository Program

Information for all Massachusetts State Agencies on how to submit print and electronic publications to the State Library.
State Library of Massachusetts

Welcome to the State Library's electronic repository. This collection includes state documents that have either been digitized or created in electronic form. Documents are arranged in collections by agency name.

The State Library of Massachusetts has digitized volumes of the Acts and Resolves from 1692 to 2010 and the full-text of these laws is now available for searching and viewing on this site. Links to the Session laws after 2010 can be found on the Massachusetts General Court’s website (https://malegislature.gov/Laws/SessionLaws/Search).

Communities in DSpace

Select a community to browse its collections.

Acts and Resolves (/handle/123456789/2)
Bills (Legislative Documents) (/handle/2452/219464)
Board of Registration in Medicine (/handle/2452/49074)
Boston Metropolitan Planning Organization (/handle/2452/37271)
Cape Cod Commission (/handle/2452/36885)
Center for Health Information and Analysis (/handle/2452/206109)
Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission (/handle/2452/431898)
Central Plymouth County Water District Commission (/handle/2452/205978)
Commission on Judicial Conduct (/handle/2452/35349)
Commonwealth Health Insurance Connector Authority (/handle/2452/37897)
Disabled Persons Protection Commission (/handle/2452/50205)
Executive Office for Administration and Finance (/handle/2452/36239)
Executive Office of Education (/handle/2452/36527)
Executive Office of Elder Affairs (/handle/2452/49307)
Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (/handle/2452/35556)
Executive Office of Health and Human Services (/handle/2452/36225)
Executive Office of Housing and Economic Development (/handle/2452/37767)
Executive Office of Labor and Workforce Development (/handle/2452/36833)
Executive Office of Public Safety and Security (/handle/2452/36250)
General Court (/handle/2452/35629)
Governor’s Council (/handle/2452/49507)
Insurance Fraud Bureau of Massachusetts (/handle/2452/36030)
Massachusetts Art Commission (/handle/2452/124223)
Massachusetts Board of Harbor and Land Commissioners (/handle/2452/47854)
Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners (/handle/2452/35873)
Bills (Legislative Documents)

BROWSE BY

By Issue Date (/handle/2452/219464/browse?type=dateissued)
Authors (/handle/2452/219464/browse?type=author)
Titles (/handle/2452/219464/browse?type=title)
Subjects (/handle/2452/219464/browse?type=subject)

Search within this community and its collections:

Go

Sub-communities within this community

1840 to 1889 Legislative Documents (/handle/2452/619055)
1890 Legislative Documents (/handle/2452/429106)
1891 Legislative Documents (/handle/2452/429107)
1892 Legislative Documents (/handle/2452/429109)
1893 Legislative Documents (/handle/2452/429110)
1894 Legislative Documents (/handle/2452/429111)
1895 Legislative Documents (/handle/2452/429112)
1896 Legislative Documents (/handle/2452/429113)
1897 Legislative Documents (/handle/2452/429114)
1898 Legislative Documents (/handle/2452/429115)
1899 Legislative Documents (/handle/2452/429116)
1900 Legislative Documents (/handle/2452/429117)
1901 Legislative Documents (/handle/2452/429118)
1902 Legislative Documents (/handle/2452/429119)
1903 Legislative Documents (/handle/2452/429120)
1904 Legislative Documents (/handle/2452/429121)
To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives:

We are filing today for your consideration "An Act Relative to the Efficient and Equitable Compensation of Injured Workers." The existing workers compensation system is fundamentally flawed. Tremendous resources are wasted or misallocated. The system is rife with abuse and inefficiency. The problem has reached crisis proportions and is now a major obstacle to economic recovery and growth in Massachusetts. For the seriously injured employee, the system's flaws can also lead to great individual hardship.

This bill is a comprehensive reform of the existing act. The overarching changes are as follows:

* proposed new procedures and penalties to root out fraud and other abuses of the system by all participants, whether they be claimants concealing their ability to work, employers operating without insurance, insurers improperly discontinuing benefits, attorneys filing frivolous claims or physicians churning patient visits to increase their fees.

* a redesign of the benefit and fee structure that (1) substantially lowers the overall costs of the system, (2) continues to provide protection and support for those seriously injured employees who need and deserve help, (3) encourages and ultimately requires employees who can return to work to do so by providing better light duty and vocational rehabilitation programs and shorter partial and temporary benefit payment periods, (4) reduces compensation for legal services in a manner that will discourage excess litigation but still provide reasonable and appropriate fees for necessary legal work.
an overhaul of statutory requirements that have resulted in a bureaucratic, inefficient, expensive, and adversarial claims handling and dispute resolution process.

We respectfully request your prompt and favorable consideration of this bill. Neither the Massachusetts economy nor the Massachusetts worker can afford any delay.

Sincerely,

William F. Weld
Governor

Argeo Paul Cellucci
Lieutenant Governor
The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Ninety-One.

AN ACT RELATIVE TO THE EFFICIENT AND EQUITABLE COMPENSATION OF INJURED WORKERS.

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 23E of the General Laws is hereby amended by striking out section 3 and inserting in place thereof the following: —

4 (1) There shall be within the department a division of administration, under the supervision and control of a director of administration and a division of dispute resolution, under the supervision and direction of a director of dispute resolution, both of whom shall be appointed by the commissioner. Within each division there shall be a first deputy director who shall perform the duties of the director of that division in the absence of such director.

12 (2) The division of administration shall be under the supervision and control of the director of administration, who shall be the executive administrative head of said office. The director shall direct and supervise the activities of all employees within such division. The division of administration shall have the following responsibilities under chapter one hundred fifty-two:

18 (a) Receiving and maintaining any reports required to be filed with the department.

20 (b) Providing conciliation and vocational rehabilitation services required of the department.

22 (c) Preparing an annual statistical report of departmental activities including available information regarding insurer practices, injury and litigation patterns and departmental productivity, and filing such report with the clerks of the house and senate of the general court, the advisory council and the commissioner of insurance and responding to other requests for data.
AN ACT RELATIVE TO
FAIR AND EFFECTIVE
COMPENSATION OF
INJURED WORKERS

December 1991
ANNOUNCEMENTS
NEW: Marijuana omnibus bill
NEW: Promote your bills on MassInsider
Every vote of every legislator
MassTrac bill search syntax
Your group positions on bills
Printed-as-amended budget, SB2076
The SB3 special amendment report
Summaries appearing at record pace
Confessions of a legislators

MUST-READS
Nantucket shop operator again appeals to state for housing help - State House News Service
Australian Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull Mocks Trump in Leaked Video - The Huffington Post
Two Too Many - Roll Call
William T. Hogan Jr., a judge who led state’s correction, welfare, and human services departments, dies at 90 - Boston Globe
Report: Rich will not leave state if tax takes effect - Sentinel & Enterprise
Income surtax dries major hurdle, but legal challenge likely - State House News Service
Marijuana law rewrite criticized, DeLeo postpones debate - State House News Service

NIGHTLY REPORTS
Daily Alert Daily Journal

Thursday, June 15th, 2017
Wednesday, June 14th, 2017
Tuesday, June 13th, 2017
OTHER DATE: 6/12/17

e-Learning Center (10 videos)

The New MassTrac
Search
Power Search
Tracking
Reports

Starting a New Cycle
Budgets and "Big Bills"
Hearings & Floor Debate
Votes and Scorecard
User Control

LEGISLATORS >>
Rep. Arico, James (D)
Rep. Ashe, Brian (D)
Rep. Atkins, Cory (D)
Rep. Ayers, Bruce (D)
Rep. Balter, Ruth (D)
Rep. Barrows, F. (R)
Rep. Benson, Jennifer (D)
Rep. Berthaune J., Donald (R)
Rep. Bolkeje, Nicholas (R)
Rep. Brodeur, Paul (D)

COMMITTEES >>
Committee on Bonding, Capital Expenditures & State Assets
Committee on Children, Families and Persons with Disabilities
Committee on Community Development and Small Business
Committee on Consumer Protection & Professional Licensure
Committee on Economic Development & Emerging Technologies
Committee on Education
Committee on Elder Affairs

SESSION LAWS >>
HB055 (Chapter 2 of 2017) - Rep. Campagnale, Kate (R) - An Act establishing a sick leave bank for Robert Hackett, an employee of the Department of Revenue
SB20 (Chapter 3 of 2017) - Senate Ways and Means - An Act establishing a sick leave bank for Lisa Eypo, an employee of the Department of Children and Families

COMMITTEES >>
Joint House Senate
Committee on Bonding, Capital Expenditures & State Assets
Committee on Children, Families and Persons with Disabilities
Committee on Community Development and Small Business
Committee on Consumer Protection & Professional Licensure
Committee on Economic Development & Emerging Technologies
Committee on Education
Committee on Elder Affairs

FORMAL SESSIONS >>
6/14/17 1:00 PM - Constitutional Convention
6/14/17 11:00 AM - Full Formal Session
6/17/17 11:00 AM - Full Formal Session
5/24/17 11:00 AM - Full Formal Session
5/10/17 1:00 PM - Joint Session
5/10/17 11:00 AM - Full Formal Session
4/25/17 10:30 AM - Full Formal Session
4/24/17 10:00 AM - Full Formal Session
4/5/17 11:00 AM - Full Formal Session
3/22/17 11:00 AM - Full Formal Session

TESTIMONY
6/14/17 - HET - Task Force on Integrity in State and Local Government
6/14/17 - HBC - Trial Court Oversight Hearing
6/13/17 - JED - Public Hearing
6/13/17 - JFR - Commercial Vehicles/CDL, Licenses; Disability Placards; Pedestrian/Bike safety

VOTES >>
SB10 Again Agreeing to the Amendment - 6/14/17
HB3736 On Engrossment - 6/7/17
HB3034 On Engrossment - 5/24/17
HB3034 On motion to adjourn - 5/24/17

6/15/2017
"BIG BILLS" >>
SB652 - (Sen. Montigny, Mark (D)) An Act to promote transparency and cost control of pharmaceutical drug prices
HB508 - (Chapter 6 of 2017) - (Governor) An Act to reorganize the Department of Public Safety
HB359 - (Joint Committee on Labor & Workforce Development) An Act establishing the Massachusetts pregnant workers fairness act
SB1880 - (Sen. Pacheco, Marc (D)) An Act creating 21st century Massachusetts clean energy jobs
HB2783 - (Joint Committee on Transportation) An Act financing improvements to municipal roads and bridges
SB669 - (Sen. Lewis, Janice (D)) An Act appropriating and exempting access to

NEW LEGISLATION 6/15 >>
SD223 - -

BILLS ON THE MOVE >>
HB1837 - Rep. Goldstein-Rose, Solomon (D) - An Act relative to naming a state-owned bridge in the town of Amherst after Eileen Story
HB2787 - Rep. Wagner, Joseph (D) - An Act authorizing the city of Chicopee to lease a certain building
HB2783 - Joint Committee on Transportation - An Act financing improvements to municipal roads and bridges
HB3601 - House Bills in Third Reading - An Act making appropriations for fiscal year 2018
HB3651 - Rep. Klein, James (R) - An Act establishing a sick leave bank for Pamela Dube

WORKFLOW >>
Positions Priorities Tasks Comments

MEDIA >>
STAT, Trump, And The Journalistic Ethics Of Speculating About A President's Health - WBUR News
State High Court Rules Private Needle Exchange Programs Are Legal - WBUR
Cambridge Seeks Solution For "Worthless" Liquor Licenses - Boston Magazine
UMass eyes tuition hike rather than more belt-tightening - Boston Herald
State panel approves UMass psychiatric bed closures - Worcester Telegram
Moulton: 'Put an end to this violence!' - Salem News
Pulling out of Paris Climate Agreement a wise choice - Cape Cod Times

RESOURCES
MassTrac Quick Guide (Cheat Sheet)
Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)
MassTrac Search Syntax
2017-2018 House and Senate Directory
2017-2018 Legislative Staff Directory
2017-2018 Committee Staff Directory
2017-2018 Session Law Effective Dates
2017-2018 Important Dates
2017-2018 Interest Group Rosters

GENERAL APPROPRIATIONS ACTS >>
SD2076 (Senate Engrossed FY2018 Budget) - An Act making appropriations for fiscal year 2018
SB3 (Senate Ways & Means FY18 Budget) - An Act making appropriations for fiscal year 2018
HB3601 (House Engrossed FY2018 Budget) - An Act making appropriations for fiscal year 2018
HB3660 (House Ways & Means FY18 Budget) - An Act making appropriations for fiscal year 2018
HB1 (Governor's FY18 Budget) - An Act making appropriations for fiscal year 2018

SUPPLEMENTAL BUDGETS >>
2017-2018 2015-2016

MASSTRAC BUDGET REPORTS >>
2017-2018 2015-2016
6/6/17 - FY2018 BUDGET: outside sections to SB2076 summarized by InstaTrac
Sets forth a section-by-section summary of Senate Bill 2076, the Senate-engrossed version of the FY 2018 General Appropriation Act.
6/8/17 - FY2018 BUDGET: comparison of line-item amounts between Governor, House, Senate by InstaTrac
Compares the line-item amounts associated with the FY18 General Appropriation Act, including the FY17 budget, the Governor's recommendations (House 1), the House Ways & Means recommendation (HB3603), the House-engrossed budget (HB3601), the Senate Ways & Means recommendations (Senate 3) and the Senate-engrossed budget (SB2076).
6/8/17 - FY2018 BUDGET: comparison of inside language for SB3 and SB2076

BUDGET NEWS
2017-2018 2015-2016

Tweets by @InstaTrac
InstaTrac Retweeted
Ruth B. Basilere @RepRuthBalse
Fair Share amendment headed to the ballot!!
#mapoli

THE CHARTER OF THE BAY COLONY TO MASSAC

Embed View on Twitter

HB3448 (House Ways & Means March 2017 Supplemental) - An Act making appropriations for the fiscal year 2017 to provide for supplementing certain existing appropriations and for certain other activities and projects.

HB72 (Governor's February 2017 Supplemental) - An Act making appropriations for fiscal year 2017 to provide for supplementing certain existing appropriations and for certain other activities and projects.

Report: Rich will not leave state if tax takes effect
Sentinel & Enterprise

Disabilities group opposing Senate $15 an hour wage plan
State House News Service

B2 groups urge conference to drop tax break review panel SB2075 (Senate Engrossed FY2018 Budget)
State House News Service

Tech secretariat would need annual budget of up to $15 ml
State House News Service

Baker touts state's fiscal health, despite bond rating drop
The Salem News

Sutter bankers say mobility issues about wealthy aren't overstated
MARIJUANA LAW REWRITE CRITICIZED, DeLEO POSTPONES DEBATE [+MEDIA]

By Colin A. Young
STATE HOUSE NEWS SERVICE

STATE HOUSE, BOSTON, JUNE 14, 2017....House leadership-backed legislation overhauling the marijuana law approved by voters last year came under fire from multiple sides Wednesday and by the end of the day, Speaker Robert DeLeo opted to push off Thursday's planned debate to next week.

House leaders planned to bring the bill (H 3751) rewriting the voter-approved marijuana legalization law to the floor Thursday afternoon, but DeLeo told reporters after a roughly 90-minute Democratic caucus that the House will work to perfect the bill.

"Number one, I think there were some procedural issues that were raised earlier in the day to me and secondly although I'd have to say that the caucus I thought went very well, people expressed concerns," DeLeo said. "There are certain things that we have to clear up and so because of that I think it's important that with a bill of this magnitude that we try to get it right or as close to right the first time, and so I'd rather do that than rush it or try to rush it through tomorrow."

SHNS Video: Speaker DeLeo, Chairman Cusack after House caucus | President Rosenberg, Chairman Brady after constitutional convention

DeLeo said the issues that need to be addressed include "some general clean-up stuff relative to language, the meaning of certain phrases" and unspecified procedural issues. He said he expects that lawmakers will still meet their self-imposed deadline of June 30 to get a bill to the governor's desk. The bill on Wednesday afternoon was referred to the Joint Committee on Health Care Financing.

Among the issues expected to be ironed out before the bill resurfaces next week is the proposed tax rate on marijuana sales.

The bill as written would raise the tax rate on retail marijuana sales from a maximum of 12 percent under the ballot law to 28 percent -- a 16.75 percent excise tax on marijuana, a 5 percent local tax and the state's 6.25 percent sales tax.

But an error in drafting the legislation meant that the bill actually calls for a compounded tax -- meaning the 16.75 percent and 5 percent taxes would be levied when the cultivator sells to the retailer and again when the retailer sells to the consumer -- making the total tax rate on marijuana purchases as high as 55 percent for some items and as high as 80 percent for products like edibles.

"That is not the intent of the legislation and we are currently working on a fix, among other issues," Rep. Mark Cusack, who co-chairs the Marijuana Policy Committee, said. "Our goal here is an all-in 28 (percent) net effective tax rate capped and at the point of sale, not at wholesale. 28 percent, all-in and capped."
MASSACHUSETTS
GENERAL LAWS ANNOTATED

Under Arrangement of the Official
General Laws of Massachusetts

SOCIAL LAW LIBRARY
1804
BOSTON
Volume 44

Chapters 263 to 265
CRIMES AGAINST THE PERSON

Notes of Decisions

Public exhibition 1

1. Public exhibition

Under R.I. 1902, c. 207, § 12 (now this section) public exhibition was one where public generally were admitted to witness exhibition in same manner as to theatres or places of public amusement, and fact that ticket price, were compelled to sign applications to become members of alleged club giving exhibition, was immaterial on prosecution for alleged club's promoting boxing match, without license. Commonwealth v. MacK (1905) 73 N.E. 314, 187 Mass. 435. Criminal Law § 45.33

§ 13. Manslaughter; punishment

Whoever commits manslaughter shall, except as hereinafter provided, be punished by imprisonment in the state prison for not more than twenty years or by a fine of not more than one thousand dollars and imprisonment in jail or a house of correction for not more than two and one half years. Whoever commits manslaughter while violating the provisions of sections one hundred and one to one hundred and two B, inclusive, of chapter two hundred and sixty-six shall be imprisoned in the state prison for life or for any term of years. Amended by St. 1971, c. 426.

Historical and Statutory Notes

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St. 1971, c. 426, approved June 22, 1971, inserted "except as hereinafter provided" and "or a house of correction" in the first sentence, and added the second sentence.

Related Laws:

St. 1997, c. 106, § 8, approved Sept. 30, 1997, provides:

"Any person convicted of any offense listed in section 3 of chapter 22E of the General Laws, who is incarcerated in any prison or house of correction on the effective date of this act, notwithstanding the date of such conviction, shall submit a DNA sample to the department within 90 days of the effective date of this act or prior to release from custody, whichever first occurs. Any person currently on probation or parole as the result of a conviction or judicial determination resulting from a charge of any of the above listed offenses, notwithstanding the date of such conviction or judicial determination, shall submit a DNA sample to the department within 90 days of the effective date of this act."

Cross References

Appeals from decisions in manslaughter cases, see c. 278, § 33E.
DNA samples, submission to state database, see c. 22E, § 3.
Indictment charging manslaughter, form, see c. 277, § 79 schedule.
Vehicular homicide, see c. 90, § 24G.

Law Review and Journal Commentaries


Emotions and bias in "trans panic" mitigation claims. Victoria L. Steinberg. 25 B.C. Third World L.J. 499 (Spring, 2005).


540
Collections
The Massachusetts Archives holds the official records created by Massachusetts state government. Holdings are organized by agency and date from 1629 to the present.

Synopsis of Holdings
Collection Guides
Full text copy for printing Summary Guide of Holdings (PDF)

Records reflecting the structure of state government
Foundation documents

Legislative records
Files of the colonial General Court (1629-1780), the Provincial Congress (1774-1775), and the state General Court (1780-present): Petitions, orders, reports, messages, bills. Unenacted legislation and enacted statutes and resolves. House and Senate dockets, roll calls, and journals. Committee and legislative commission hearing and background files.

State secretary records
Administrative files; initiative and referendum petitions; state and national election returns; state regulation files and register; lobbyist registrations; municipal home rule charters and acceptances of local option statutes; notices of appointment, lists, and qualifications (oaths of office) of state and local officials; census registers and returns (state: 1855, 1865, 1915, 1971, 1975; federal: Massachusetts, 1790-1900; Maine, 1790-1810); returns of town vital records (1841-1925); indexes to 1971); returns of names changed in probate court. Corporate articles of organization (prior to 1851 see legislative records).

Executive records
- Governor (1802–present)
- Council
- Administration and Finance
- Consumer Affairs and Business Regulation
- Economic Development and Manpower Affairs/Labor
- Education
- Environmental Affairs
- Health and Human Services
- Public Safety/Adjutant General
- Transportation and Construction
- Treasurer records — State loans, bonds, bounties, veterans' bonuses, military accounts. Troy and Greenfield and other railroad financial records.
- Attorney General records — Investigative files, opinions, victim witness program, charitable corporation filings. Also: State Ethics Commission designation lists
- Court records — Land Court registration decrees. Judicial Archives: Supreme Judicial Court and predecessors; Superior and district courts by county, including probate and naturalization records.

Special colonial and early state materials to 1800
328-volume Massachusetts Archives Collection which contains colonial, provincial, and Revolutionary records.

The Eastern Lands papers (PDF) document settlement of public lands in the District of Maine and its separation from Massachusetts as a state in 1820. Included are legal, survey, and financial records of the General Court, legislative commissions, and the Land Office.

Transcripts of the Archives of the Plymouth Colony, 1620-1691. Included are legislative, court, financial, and vital records; deeds and wills.

All the above contain documents relating to Indian affairs, including military, trading, and census records. The Archives also holds 19th-century records of the Guardians of Indians.

http://www.sec.state.ma.us/arc/arccol/colidx.htm
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 149 of the General Laws as appearing in the 1990 Official Edition, is hereby amended by inserting the following:

Section 187. Restrictive Covenant Unenforceable Upon Broadcasting Employees.

Any contract or agreement which creates or establishes the terms of employment for any employee or individual in the broadcasting industry, including, television stations, television networks, radio stations, radio networks, or any entities affiliated with the foregoing, which restricts the right of such employee or individual to obtain employment in any geographic area for any period of time after termination of employment or relationship, shall be void and unenforceable with respect to such provision. Whoever violates the provisions of this section shall be liable to an amount of reasonable attorneys' fees and costs of affected employee or individuals, associated with litigation.
Collections

The Massachusetts Archives holds the official records created by Massachusetts state government. Holdings are organized by agency and date from 1629 to the present.

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Summary Guide of Holdings (PDF)

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Witchcraft records in the Massachusetts Archives Collection include depositions, examinations, warrants, and other court documents.
ENACTED LEGISLATION
SENIOR STAFF REVIEW
URGENT

Bill Number:   S 76


Today's Date:  August 5, 1998

This bill MUST be acted upon by:  Sunday, August 9, 1998

Legislative Office Comments:
SIGN

This bill filed by Senator John O'Brien (D-Andover) would eliminate any "non-compete" agreements of employees in the broadcasting industry.

Current "non-compete" agreements restrict broadcasting employees from working in certain geographic areas for a specified time period.

Opponents of this bill feel that this is an intrusion into the private negotiations of one particular industry and question the bill's constitutionality. Broadcast executives argue that "non-compete" agreements are common in the industry and are used regularly with highly paid employees.

Proponents argue that this bill is unfair to a very small segment of the broadcasting industry. They contend that radio personalities are forced to not work in the area or move to another part of the country in order to comply with these "non-compete" clauses.

This bill only applies to contracts entered into after its effective date.

This bill passed the House 148-0 and 38-1 in the Senate.

Review of Agency Recommendations:
Legal Counsel: POLICY DETERMINATION
Economic Development: VETO
Consumer Affairs: No position
The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER OF BANKS
LEVERETT SALTONSTALL BUILDING, RM. 2004
100 CAMBRIDGE STREET
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02202, NOVEMBER 6, 1991

Honorable Michael Joseph Connolly, Secretary of the Commonwealth
State House, Room 337, Boston, Massachusetts 02133

Dear Secretary Connolly:
In accordance with the provisions of section 33 of Chapter 30 of the General Laws, the Division of Banks herewith transmits seventeen recommendations for consideration by the General Court in 1992. Such recommendations are accompanied by drafts of bills embodying the legislation recommended and an explanation of each such proposal.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael C. Hanson,
Commissioner of Banks.
Organized by year

Indexes
Index of special reports authorized by the General Court, 1900-1988
Index to special reports: 1986-March 1994

1994
An emerging concern: the state’s role in hospital consolidations, November 1994
Report of the Senate Committee on science and technology entitled “Meeting the Baystate Challenger,” March 24, 1994
Report of the Senate Committee on science and technology entitled “Meeting the Baystate Challenge, volume two,” June 23, 1994
Report of the trustees of the Boston Metropolitan District for the year nineteen hundred and ninety-three, January 1994
Seventeenth report of the Massachusetts Capital Resources company relative to the taxable year for domestic life insurance companies ended December 31 1993 (March 2, 1994)

1993
An act to reorganize the Department of Public Welfare to make the operation of government more efficient, April 1, 1993
1993 abstract of the financial report of the comptroller for the fiscal year ended June 30, 1992
Interim report of the joint special committee established to make an investigation and study of a new division of the Commonwealth into one hundred and sixty representative districts, forty senatorial districts and eight executive councilor districts, November 3, 1993
Majority report of the committee on state administration on reorganization plan No. 2 of 1993 submitted by the Governor under the provisions of Article LI XLI of the Amendments to the Constitution relative to reorganizing the Department of Public Welfare to make the operation of government more efficient, June 15, 1993
Majority report of the joint committee on state administration on the reorganization plan No. 1 of 1993 relative to reorganizing the Department of Public Welfare to make the operation of government more efficient, May 1993
Report of the committee conference on the general appropriations bill for the fiscal year nineteen hundred and ninety-four, July 9, 1993
Report of the Senate committee on post audit and oversight entitled “Workers’ compensation: is it temporary or totally disabled?” May 5, 1993
Report of the Senate committee on post audit and oversight entitled “A program and performance audit of the Massachusetts office of international trade and investment (MOIT).” August 2, 1993
Report of the Senate committee on post audit and oversight entitled “A review of DWH policy planning and implementation during the closing of Northampton State Hospital,” January 1993
A report of the Senate committee on post audit and oversight relative to analysis of the state’s fiscal crisis (puruant to Section 83 of Chapter 3 of the General Laws), November 1989
Report of the Senate committee on post audit and oversight entitled “The cost of innovation: The DPUs purchased power regulations of 1986.” November 1993
Report of the Senate committee on post audit and oversight entitled “Toward expanded gaming: a review of gaming in Massachusetts”, September, 1993
Report of the special aid hoc committee recommending changes in the rules of the Senate and the joint rules, December 20, 1993
Report of the special committee established to make an investigation and study relative to business tax policy of the Commonwealth (under Chapter 218 of the Acts of 1993), November 1, 1993
Report of the Special Committee of the House Established to Make an Investigation and Study of Lead Paint Laws, July 7, 1993
Report of the Special Committee of the House Established to Make an Investigation and Study relative to revising the vehicle emissions and inspections program and other matters related thereto, August 23, 1993
Report of the special joint committee established to make an investigation and study of a new division of the Commonwealth into one hundred and sixty representative districts, forty senatorial districts and eight executive councilor districts, November 3, 1993
Report of the Trustees of the Boston Metropolitan District for the year Nineteen Hundred and Ninety-Two (under the provisions of Section 2 of Chapter 313 of the Acts of 1929), January 1993

http://www.nesl.edu/research/Legislative_Council.cfm
FORTY-SIXTH REPORT
Judicial Council of Massachusetts
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OF THE

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

OF

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

2001-2002

Printed by Order of the House and in Accordance with the
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BOSTON
EAGLE GRAPHICS, INC., LEGISLATIVE PRINTERS
30 LANCASTER STREET
2002
THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

LIST OF CHAPTERS OF THE ACTS
FOR THE 2001 SESSION

1. An Act making certain special provisions for an election to fill a vacancy in the Board of Selection of the town of Reading (see House, No. 3999). Approved February 15, 2001.


3. An Act making appropriations for the fiscal year 2001 to provide for supplementing certain existing appropriations and for certain other activities and projects (see House, No. 4021). Approved March 9, 2001.

4. An Act authorizing the town of Warren to issue an additional license for the sale of all alcoholic beverages not to be drunk on the premises (see House, No. 260). Approved April 12, 2001.


7. An Act making appropriations for the fiscal year 2001 to provide for supplementing certain existing appropriations and for certain other activities and projects (see House, No. 4070, amended). Approved April 30, 2001.


10. An Act authorizing the town of Mansfield to use certain conservation land for road and bridge purposes (see House, No. 4002). Approved May 9, 2001.


SENATE BILL HISTORY — 2001-2002


§ 5 A message from His Excellency the Governor, relative to the general concerns of the Commonwealth for 2002. 1/18/01 S Printed document, placed on file.

§ 5 Message from Her Honor the Lieutenant Governor, Acting Governor, relative to the general concerns of the Commonwealth for 2002. 1/15/02 S Placed on file - SJ 1041.

§ 3 Communication from the Executive Office of Environmental Affairs under the provisions of Section 3 of Chapter 21A of the General Laws relative to the Environmental Joint Powers Agreement. 5/24/01 S Referred to the committee on NATURAL RESOURCES AND AGRICULTURE - SJ 1334 Joint H House concurred - HJ 1539 12/31/02 S No further action taken.

§ 4 A message from Her Honor the Lieutenant Governor, Acting Governor, under the provisions of Section 5 of Article LXXXIX of the Amendments to the Constitution recommending legislation relative to the Brockton 21st Century Corporation. 5/29/02 S Referred to the committee on COMMERCE AND LABOR - SJ 1376 S2880 H House concurred - HJ 1838 7/28/02 S Bill reported favorably by committee and referred to the committee on SENATE STEERING AND POLICY 7/29/02 S Committee reported that the matter be placed in the Orders of the Day for the next session - SJ 1864 7/29/02 H Read second, ordered to a third reading, read third and passed to be engrossed - SJ 1882 7/30/02 H Read and referred to the committee on HOUSE STEERING, POLICY AND SCHEDULING - HJ 1884 7/30/02 H Committee reported that the matter be placed in the Orders of the Day for the next session - SJ 1856 7/30/02 H Rules suspended 8/5/02 H Read second and ordered to a third reading - HJ 2144 8/5/02 H Read third and passed to be engrossed - HJ 2150 8/1/02 H Enacted - SJ 2164 S2120 S Enacted and laid before the acting Governor - SJ 1890 8/21/02 G Signed by the Acting Governor, Chapter 235 of the Acts of 2002.

§ 5 Petition of Robert S. Creedon, Jr. and Robert E. Trafton for legislation relative to insurance sales by credit unions. 1/30/01 S Referred to the committee on BANKS AND BANKING - SJ 24A 1/15/01 H House concurred P Hearing date May 1 AM at 11:00 in Room 437 6/28/01 S Bill reported favorably by committee and referred to the committee on SENATE WAYS AND MEANS - SJ 442 7/1/02 S Committee recommended ought to pass with an amendment 11/14/01 S Rules suspended 11/14/01 S Read second, amended (as recommended by the committee on Ways and Means) and ordered to a third reading - SJ 819 11/15/01 S Read third 11/15/01 S Amendment adopted 11/15/01 S Passed to be engrossed - SJ 1818 11/15/01 H Yeas to 0 Nays (see Senate Roll Call, No. 76) S185 825 11/15/01 H Read, and referred to the committee on HOUSE WAYS AND MEANS - HJ 1025 6/1/02 H Committee recommended ought to pass with an amendment and referred to the committee on HOUSE STEERING, POLICY AND SCHEDULING 6/11/02 H Committee reported that the matter be placed in the Orders of the Day for the next session - HJ 1873 6/19/02 H Read second, amended (as recommended by the committee on Ways and Means) and ordered to a third reading - HJ 1899 H No further action taken.

§ 6 Petition of Brian A. Joyce, Philip Travis, Eunice J. Gagnon and Marian Walsh for legislation to provide for public safeguards and protections for users of automated teller machines. 1/30/01 S Referred to the committee on BANKS AND BANKING - SJ 24A 1/30/01 H House concurred P Hearing date Mar 27 AM at 11:00 in Room 437 5/24/01 S Accompanied a new draft, see S1875 - SJ 168.
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APPENDIX TO CHAPTER 75

UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS BUILDING AUTHORITY

Section
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1-3. Purposes.
1-4. General Grant of Powers.
1-5. Agreements between the Commonwealth and the Authority.
1-6. Accountability.
1-7. Authority Bonds and Notes.
1-8. Trust Agreement.
1-10. Guaranty by Commonwealth.
1-12. Trust Funds.
1-14. Remedies.
1-15. Exemption from Taxation.
1-17. Liability in Contract or Tort; Enforcement of Claims.
1-18. Miscellaneous.
1-19. Transfer to Commonwealth.
1-19A. Transfer of Trust Funds to Authority.
1-19B. Use and Disposition of Property and Proceeds Thereof.
1-19C. Commonwealth Properties.
1-22. Inconsistent Laws Inapplicable.

St.1960, c. 773, enacted the provisions set out as §§ 1-1 to 1-22 of this Appendix.

The laws included in this Appendix were not enacted as part of the General Laws, but are set out herein for convenient reference.

§ 1-1. Definitions

Definitions.—As used in this act, the following words and terms shall have the following meanings, unless the context shall indicate another or different meaning or intent:

(a) The word "Authority" shall mean the University of Massachusetts Building Authority, created by section two of this act or, if said Authority shall be abolished, the board, body or commission succeeding to the principal functions thereof or to which the powers given by this act to the Authority shall be given by law.

(b) The term "cost of a project" shall embrace the cost, whenever incurred, of carrying out a project and placing it in operation, the cost of architectural and engineering services, plans, specifications, surveys, estimates of cost and of revenues, other expenses necessary or incident to determining the feasibility or practicability of the project, administrative expense, legal expense and such other expenses as may be necessary or incident to the aforesaid, to the financing thereof and to the issuance therefor of notes or bonds or both under the provisions of this act and interest for such
ANNOTATED LAWS OF MASSACHUSETTS

with pocket upkeep service

Containing all the Laws of Massachusetts of a general and permanent nature completely annotated

Chapters S1–S41

By the Editorial Staff of the Publishers

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CHAPTER S7
Massachusetts Housing Finance Agency
(Acts 1966, Ch. 708)

SEC.
1. Definitions.
4. General Grant of Powers.
4A. Grant of Additional Powers.
5. Mortgage Loans.
5A. Loans to Mortgage Lenders.
5B. Mortgage Insurance Program.
5C. Technical Assistance.
5D. Loans to Mortgage Lenders for Multi-Family Housing Projects.
6. Rental Levels and Schedules.
7. Tenants.
8. Issuance of Bonds and Notes.
9. Credit of Commonwealth or any Subdivisions Thereof Not Pledged.
9A. Working Capital Fund.
9B. Capital Reserve Fund.
9C. Security for Bonds Issued Pursuant to § 5A; Capital Reserve Funds.
10. Trust Agreement.
11. Advisory Committee.
13A. Interest Subsidy Program.
13B. Resident Ownership Subsidy Program.
15. Inspection of Books and Records.
16. Liberal Construction.
16A. Claims Against the MHFA; Liability of MHFA.
17. Severability.

§ 1. Definitions.
As used in this act the following words and terms shall have the following meanings unless a contrary intent is clearly indicated:
(a) “earned surplus” shall have the same meaning as in generally accepted accounting standards;
(b) “FHA” shall mean the Federal Housing Administration, United States Department of Housing and Urban Development, and any successor to its functions;
Municipal Codes

Massachusetts Municipal Codes

Public Laws/ALS

MA - Massachusetts Advance Legislative Service

MA - Annotated Laws of Massachusetts

Publisher:
Matthew Bender & Company, Inc.

Coverage:
LexisNexis updates legislation as it is received from the source. Please see individual sections for the most recent currentness information.

Frequency: Varies by/jurisdiction, see individual source descriptions.

Update Schedule: Updated regularly - Atypical update schedule/as received from the government

Description: The Annotated Laws of Massachusetts (MACD) file contains the statutory code from the Annotated Laws of Massachusetts. The Annotated Laws of Massachusetts includes all laws of a general and permanent nature, as enacted by the Massachusetts Legislature. Note regarding headings: Part, Title, and Chapter headings are codified by the Massachusetts General Court. Section headings are supplied by the editorial staff of the publisher and are subject to periodic change to ensure clarity and accuracy. Note: Massachusetts Laws archives are available from 1992.

Close
Municipal Codes

Massachusetts Municipal Codes

Public Laws/ALS

MA - Massachusetts Advance Legislative Service

MA Full-Text Bills

Publisher:
State Net A LexisNexis Company

Coverage:
Full text of bills pending in the current legislative session back through 1991.

Frequency: Updated 6 days per week during peaks of legislative sessions, Monday through Saturday: else, 5 days per week, Monday through Friday;

Update Schedule: Updated within 72 hours of government posting. Large pieces of legislation (100 pp +) may require additional processing time beyond the 72 hours.

Description: The Massachusetts Full Text Bills content contains the full text of bills pending in the Massachusetts state legislature and all prior sessions back to 1991. Specific language may be added to or deleted from existing statutory law as a result of pending legislation. When current law is amended, text that is added will appear as text highlighted in green. Text that has been deleted will appear as red, strikethrough text. For older documents that were amended, the following symbols are used. Please note that these symbols are not used to indicate any amendments to the pending legislation. A> <A - Enclosed within the brackets is language added to existing statutory law. The text is UPPERCASE. D> <D - Enclosed within the brackets is language deleted from existing statutory law. Changes to the full text of the bill are not incorporated into the SYNOPSIS portion of the full text. Consequently, the entire text of the bill should be reviewed for any changes.
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NEW ENGLAND.

PRINTED BY ORDER OF THE LEGISLATURE.

EDITED BY

NATHANIEL B. SHURTLEFF, M.D.,
MEMBER OF THE MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL SOCIETY, FELLOW OF THE AMERICAN ACADEMY OF ARTS AND SCIENCES, AND MEMBER OF THE AMERICAN ANTIQUARIAN SOCIETY.

VOL. I.

1628–1641. — 1656

BOSTON:
FROM THE PRESS OF WILLIAM WHITE,
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1853.
MASSACHUSETTS
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Volume 28

Real Estate Law

With Forms
FOURTH EDITION

By
ARTHUR L. ENO, JR.
of the Massachusetts Bar

and
WILLIAM V. HOVEY
of the Massachusetts Bar

Text Volume
Chapters 1–32

THOMSON
WEST

Material # 40245983
## HISTORICAL DATA

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1713</td>
<td>Mar. 20</td>
<td>Established as a town, from part of Cambridge known by the name of the “Northern Precinct”. (Prov. Laws, Vol. XXI, p. 813.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1754</td>
<td>Apr. 19</td>
<td>Part included in the new town of Lincoln.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1768</td>
<td>June 9</td>
<td>Part annexed to Bedford.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1800</td>
<td>Jan. 20</td>
<td>Part of Burlington annexed.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1853</td>
<td>Feb. 28</td>
<td>Bounds between Lexington and Lincoln established.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1855</td>
<td>Apr. 4</td>
<td>Bounds between Lexington and Waltham located and defined.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1954</td>
<td>Feb. 16</td>
<td>Bounds between Lexington and Winchester established.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1964</td>
<td>Mar. 24</td>
<td>Bounds between Lexington and Winchester established.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Leyden, Franklin County
Incorporated as a town by St 1809, c.135.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1784</td>
<td>Mar. 12</td>
<td>Established as a district by the name of Leyden, from part of Bernardston.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1809</td>
<td>Feb. 22</td>
<td>Incorporated as a town, formerly the district of Leyden.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1888</td>
<td>May 7</td>
<td>Part annexed to Bernardston upon acceptance of the act by Bernardston.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1886</td>
<td>June 7</td>
<td>Act of May 7, 1866, accepted by Bernardston.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1911</td>
<td>Apr. 24</td>
<td>Bounds between Leyden and Colrain established.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Lincoln, Middlesex County
Established as a town by St 1763–1754, c. 38.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1853</td>
<td>Feb. 28</td>
<td>Bounds between Lincoln and Lexington established.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Litchfield—see Dunstable.
Established as a town by St 1734–1735, c. 11.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

### Little Compton—see Dartmouth.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1692</td>
<td>June 6</td>
<td>Established as a town, from lands formerly called “Saconett.” (Ply. Col. Rec., Vol. VI, p. 88.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1693</td>
<td>Mar. 13</td>
<td>Bounds re-established.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1701</td>
<td>June 13</td>
<td>Bounds between the town of Dartmouth and the towns of Little Compton and Tiverton established.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1747</td>
<td>Feb. 5</td>
<td>“... the whole of Little Compton in this Province...” annexed to Dartmouth.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
A GUIDE TO GATHERING AND USING LEGISLATIVE HISTORY IN MASSACHUSETTS

By Sean J. Kealy

INTRODUCTION

Lawyers must have the ability to interpret statutory language. Whether during criminal or civil litigation, advising a client on recent statutory changes or appearing before an administrative agency, the importance of statutes to the modern legal world is unquestioned. Although some jurists, notably the late Justice Antonin Scalia, question whether there can be such a thing as "legislative intent" and disregard materials that may be instructive to the court, most jurisdictions not only accept evidence of legislative intent, but seek it out. As Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court Justice Robert Cordy wrote:

While researching legislative history in Massachusetts can be a tremendous challenge, where a question involving the Legislature's intent is a close one, the legislative history can often be a decisive factor in determining which side is to prevail. The legislative history and knowing how it supports your position can make the difference between a good argument and a really compelling one.²

Unfortunately, gathering legislative history in Massachusetts is difficult at best. Unlike Congress, Massachusetts does not have anything analogous to the comprehensive Congressional Record, informative committee reports, or a systematic archive of relevant records used to draft and justify bills. In fact, finding Massachusetts legislative history is more like a treasure hunt and the previous guides have become dated.³

This article seeks to provide a reliable map for the practitioner seeking useful legislative materials beneath the Gold Dome. The first part of the paper briefly describes the uses of legislative history by federal and state courts and the evidence of legislative intent upon which judges have relied in the past. The second part describes the Massachusetts legislative process that creates evidence of the legislature's and governor's intent behind a law. This part also offers a guide to the most common citations a researcher may find in a legislative search. Part three covers how to find legislative history in Massachusetts, including: the available sources of information; reconstructing a complete procedural history for a statute; and a description of the evidence that may be helpful and where to find that information. Finally, there are two appendices, one with a checklist for finding legislative history and the other a list of useful contact information.

I. THE USE OF LEGISLATIVE HISTORY

Amazingly, in more than 300 years of American jurisprudence, there has never been an agreed-upon method for how judges should interpret statutory language. Some judges, most significantly Justice Scalia, limit their inquiries to the statutory language passed by the legislature, as understood by the rest of the legal code and the traditional canons of construction. Justice Scalia argued that it is useless for a judge to try and understand the mind or "psychoanalyze" the legislature, and that historical legislative material not actually voted

1. My sincere thanks to Stacey Bloom, Bette Siegel, Josh Kriatzman, Stephen Doner, Zachary Hillman, Alex Ponney, Patricia Jo, Jennifer Yoo and Sarah Simkin for their assistance in researching and editing this article. I would also like to thank Senator Cynthia Stone Crecen for giving me the opportunity to work in the General Court as counsel to the Criminal Justice and Revenue committees.


Additional Sources

The following are available at the Social Law Library:

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Massachusetts Judicial Council, Annual Reports, 1925-1973 KFM 2909 .A82 (Also available in the LLMC Digital database)


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Shubow, Lawrence, “Statutory Construction” in Massachusetts Practice Series, Summary of Basic Law, Volume 148, Chapter 19 (1996) (Superseded, the chapter is not included in the current volume of the Massachusetts Practice Series) KFM 2480 .M3 (14-14C)

Singer, Norman, J. and J.D. Shambie Singer, Statutes and Statutory Construction, Chapter 48, “Extrinsic Aids-Legislative History”