

HOUSE No. 1151

By Mr. Cleary of Boston, petition of David M. Cleary that the Governor be authorized to issue executive orders closing offices of state departments or permitting such offices to operate with reduced personnel and to provide for time off for certain state employees not subject to such orders. State Administration.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Forty-Eight.

AN ACT AUTHORIZING THE GOVERNOR ON CERTAIN OCCASIONS TO ISSUE EXECUTIVE ORDERS CLOSING OFFICES OF STATE DEPARTMENTS OR PERMITTING SUCH OFFICES TO OPERATE WITH REDUCED PERSONNEL, AND PROVIDING FOR TIME OFF FOR CERTAIN STATE EMPLOYEES NOT SUBJECT TO SUCH EXECUTIVE ORDERS.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1 Chapter 30 of the General Laws is hereby amended
2 by striking out section 24, as most recently amended
3 by chapter 408 of the acts of 1946, and inserting in
4 place thereof the following section: —

5 *Section 24.* All offices under the jurisdiction of
6 any department of the state government shall be open
7 to the public for the transaction of business daily on
8 days other than Saturdays, Sundays and legal holidays
9 for such hours, beginning not later than nine o'clock

10 in the forenoon and ending not earlier than five o'clock
11 in the afternoon, as may be set by the department
12 head subject to the approval of the commission on
13 administration and finance. The governor may, by
14 executive order, permit any such office to operate with
15 reduced personnel for such time as he may deem ad-
16 visable. Any employee who is not relieved from duty
17 during any such period shall be entitled to receive a
18 period of time off equal to that during which he worked,
19 without loss of compensation. If the convenience of
20 the public so requires, any department head, subject
21 to the approval of the commission on administration
22 and finance, may keep any office under his jurisdiction
23 open on any Saturday, not a legal holiday, from nine
24 o'clock in the forenoon to twelve o'clock noon, and
25 give any employee required to work on Saturday
26 equivalent time off without loss of compensation.
27 When the day or the last day for the performance of
28 any act, including the making of any payment or
29 tender of payment, authorized or required to be per-
30 formed at such an office falls on a Saturday, Sunday
31 or legal holiday, the act may be performed on the next
32 succeeding business day.